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Ontario OK's enhanced licences

BORDER Ontario is the latest province that will offer enhanced driver's licences as an alternative to a passport for residents who travel to the United States, despite warnings that the new system will be wide open for privacy abuses.

A government bill allowing the province to issue the high-tech ID cards passed in the Ontario legislature yesterday, with only the New Democrats voting against the legislation.

Ontario will also offer photo ID cards for the estimated four million residents who don't have a valid driver's licence.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Speaker **Milliken dragged back in**

TOM HANSON/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Newly re-elected House of Commons Speaker Peter Milliken, centre, is dragged to the Speaker's chair after his victory by Opposition Leader Stéphane Dion, left, and Prime Minister Stephen Harper, in the House of Commons in Ottawa yesterday.

McGuinty wants aid in 'lockstep' with U.S.

BAILOUT General Motors, Chrysler and Ford are seeking aid from the Canadian government that is "proportional" to what the U.S. will offer, a top executive at GM's Canadian unit says.

In the U.S., the Detroit Three automakers are seeking about $25 billion US in loans, so Canadian assistance would be in the range of about $2.5 billion to $3.5 billion in view of their share of North American auto sales and production.

"We think Canada should signal some form of proportional support," David Paterson, vice-president of corporate and environmental affairs at General Motors of Canada Ltd., said yesterday.

Paterson said they have not asked for a specific amount but are seeking loan guarantees or the same credit ratings as governments to gain easier access to funds.

As federal and provincial ministers prepared to discuss aid with the Big Three today, Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty said any Canadian bailout should complement — not undermine — U.S. rescue efforts.

"We would prefer to move, if it's possible, in lockstep with the U.S.," he said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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Women ski jumpers get court date

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VW Tiguan a too-cute-ute

Travel pg 31

N.Y. a haven of healthy dining

Big 3 plead for cash

Automakers warn of 'catastrophic' costs if industry fails

The men who run The Big Three looked tiny in a Congressional hearing room yesterday, pleading for money and carrying a common message: It's not our fault.

The Diminished Three, Richard Wagoner of General Motors, Alan Mulally of Ford and Robert Nardelli of Chrysler, all used the same apocalyptic language to describe the economic fallout if the industry failed, saying if one went under, the other two would surely follow.

"What would it mean if the domestic industry were allowed to fail?" Wagoner told the Senate committee. "The societal costs would be catastrophic — three million jobs lost within the first year, U.S. personal income reduced by $150 billion, and a government tax loss of more than $156 billion over three years."

Alabama Republican Richard Shelby said he believes if taxpayers fork over $25 billion US today, the industry will be back for more.

"Are we here in the Senate being asked to facilitate a stronger, more competitive auto manufacturing sector or to perpetuate a market failure?"

The three men, joined by United Auto Workers Union president Ron Gettelfinger and an industry critic from academia, explained they needed $25 billion immediately to stay afloat — on top of another $25 billion for plant retooling, already approved by Congress, earmarked for the production of fuel efficient vehicles.

But prospects of receiving a bailout are slim as Democrats sympathetic to their plight want the money to come from a $750 billion financial bailout, while Republicans are resisting that call.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Industry's state blamed on faux wealth

- Asked if the Big Three made a mistake, Chrysler's Robert Nardelli said the auto market got caught up in U.S. economic exuberance, catering to people who dined out on faux real estate wealth, seeking bigger and bigger gas guzzlers.

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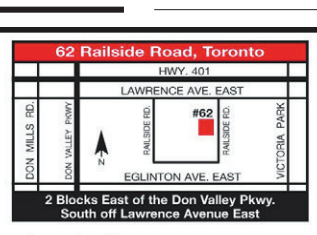

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Gas prices set to fall below 80 cents a litre
Motorists can expect more relief tonight as gas prices in the Greater Toronto Area fall below 80 cents per litre, the lowest in 21 months. Last night, Liberal MP and veteran gas price watcher Dan McTeague predicted pump prices would dip to an average of 79.3 cents per litre at midnight. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Man accused of stealing poppy funds

Police arrested a man for allegedly stealing poppy donation boxes containing about $2,000 yesterday. On Monday, police had released an image of a man caught on tape stealing one of the boxes. The suspect is believed to have stolen 17 boxes from retail store counters in the two weeks preceding Remembrance Day. Regan Collings, 29, of no fixed address is charged with theft and breach of probation.

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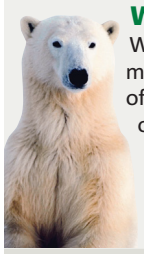

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Ontario Pick 3 8 3 0; **Ontario Pick 4** 4 1 7 1; **Encore** 0891035; **Daily Keno** 2, 8, 11, 21, 27, 28, 30, 32, 35, 40, 41, 42, 47, 49, 52, 53, 56, 57, 63, 66.
These results are not official.

Police to pay for sex assault

Ruling 'very important' for Canadian women: Lawyer

The Toronto Police Services Board has been ordered to pay Marian Evans $215,000 — plus her legal costs — after she sued for an "outrageous and despicable sexual assault" committed by a former Toronto police officer 30 years ago.

The court also ordered John David Sproule to pay $25,000 in punitive damages. Sproule, a constable who fondled and tried to kiss Evans in 1979 after a traffic stop, refused to attend the trial.

The court-ordered award is considered one of the largest against Toronto police and Susan Vella, Evans' lawyer, said Ontario Superior Court Justice Sandra Chapnik's landmark decision is "very important for women" across the country. "This is the first decision in Canada in which a court has held a police board, or force, vicariously responsible for sexual misconduct committed by one of its officers," Vella said.

The ruling in the Evans case is also an important decision that applies to historical sexual assault cases because it affirms the Supreme Court of Canada view that, in circumstances such as this where there is an abuse of power, the four-year limitation period can begin accruing decades after an incident happened. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Incident

- On Jan. 6, 1979, Evans, then 24, was driving home alone in Scarborough when Const. Sproule pulled her over in a marked cruiser and found her licence was suspended for non-payment of a fine. Later, he grabbed her breast and tried to kiss her.

JIM WILKES/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Makhan Lachhar enters a car as he leaves a Brampton courthouse after he was released yesterday on bail.

Hit-and-run accused gets bail

A Brampton taxi driver has been released on $51,000 bail after his arrest in the weekend hit-and-run death of Mandeep Bhagtana.

Bhagtana, a 40-year-old father of two, was killed early Saturday when he was struck by a car as he crossed Bovaird Drive near his home.

Makhan Lachhar, 64, was arrested Monday afternoon when he returned to a Brampton auto body shop where he had left a Chevrolet Impala for repairs.

Lachhar faces charges of failing to remain at the scene of an accident causing death and careless driving, was ordered to return to Brampton court again on Dec. 1. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Bylaw sidesteps gang memorials

COUNCIL A proposal to prohibit spontaneous public memorials to slain gang members in Coun. Giorgio Mammoliti's ward was watered down yesterday, after city staff pointed to a bylaw already on the books. The existing bylaw, rarely enforced, permits such on-the-spot memorials only for victims of car accidents, and only for 30 days, staff said at a meeting of the Etobicoke-York community council. As a result, the motion that was approved simply asked staff to enforce the 30-day maximum in Mammoliti's ward, removing any mention of drug dealers or gang members.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

FOOD The number of students showing up at the doorsteps of Ryerson University's food room has increased so dramatically over the past year that the service has been forced to shut its doors to those not currently enrolled at Ryerson. About 230 students now use the service weekly — nearly a 30 per cent increase from last year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Man accused of scamming homeowners out of $230,000

A 49-year-old man is accused of posing as a licensed contractor and defrauding homeowners out of more than $230,000 by demanding more cash to finish a job and then fleeing with most of the work unfinished. Police say the accused represented himself as the owner of Valglobal General Contractors Inc. and faces six counts of fraud. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Anne Frank's story inspires

Jewish girl's tale helps first Muslim Miss Germany overcome own fear

Asli Bayram knows the urge to hide, fearful of those outside who might hurt her, and too afraid to do anything that might get her noticed.

She fought back against the fear three years ago by becoming Miss Germany, the first Muslim to do so. She fights back now by reading to school children The Diary of Anne Frank, about another young woman who feared for her life.

"I always liked her, her diary, her personality. She was a strong girl," the 27-year-old beauty queen and actress says in a break from her two-week series of readings around Toronto.

"I always liked (Anne Frank), her diary, her personality. She was a strong girl." Asli Bayram, whose father was killed by a neo-Nazi

The readings are presented by the Te-Amim Music Theatre of Toronto with funding from the Friends of the Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.

Bayram says the story of Anne, a Jewish girl forced to hide from the Nazis during World War II only to be eventually discovered and die of typhus in Bergen Belsen, resonated with her as a young Turkish girl growing up in Germany.

Like Anne, she was made to feel like an outsider in her country due to Nazis.

Bayram was 12 when a neo-Nazi neighbour, a little drunk, came to her door and pointed a gun at her. Her father, close behind, pushed her out of the way and slammed the door. A bullet hit Bayram's father in the stomach before striking her in the arm.

"It is hard to talk about, but I feel I must," she tells 100 children in east-end Toronto. "My father died."

The killer was given a six-year sentence, and served only 3 1/2 years in prison, the rest on day patrol. Bayram was forced to testify in court with him staring at her the entire time.

"It was very hard, very unfair the way the legal system treated us," she says in an interview.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Garbage e-mail raises eyebrows

MAYOR Conspiracy theories abounded at city hall yesterday over an e-mail from the mayor's office concerning the city's new garbage system.

The note, sent to half of the councillors last week by Mae Lee, "point person" on the garbage file, assures that during the transition to the new grey bin system, the city will still collect garbage bags even without the pink tag meant to show the household hasn't received its bin yet.

But what raised eyebrows was the fact the note went to only 22 councillors, all members of Mayor David Miller's executive committee or councillors who tend to vote with the mayor.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

CREBA DNA on the grip of a firearm carried by a man accused of murdering 15-year-old Jane Creba, who was shot in the crossfire of a gun battle on Boxing Day 2005, matches that of two other men, but not the accused, his trial was told yesterday. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Raw milk activist slams marketing board

SCHMIDT Ontario's milk marketing board is an "albatross" that has failed to deliver on its legislated mandate to protect small-scale farming and should be scrapped, farmer and raw-milk activist Michael Schmidt said yesterday.

Schmidt, who faces prosecution for allegedly violating the province's ban on raw-milk sales, also threatened legal action against Dairy Farmers of Ontario, the organization that regulates the supply of milk.

"It has done nothing to preserve the family farms of Ontario, which are in steady decline," Schmidt told a news conference at the provincial legislature.

"It is an albatross around all our necks."

Schmidt's news conference coincided with the second anniversary of a raid on his farm about two hours northwest of Toronto, when authorities attempted to shut down his "cow-share" operation.

Ontario, in line with the rest of Canada, forbids the sale of raw milk, though farmers are legally allowed to consume it from cows they own. Schmidt's system allows people to own a share in his cows, and he supplies them with milk from "their" animals.

MICHAEL STUPARYK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Raw milk dairy farmer Michael Schmidt speaks at a press conference at Queen's Park yesterday. Schmidt called for the province to scrap its milk marketing board, saying it failed small-scale farms.

Devotees tout the health benefits of raw milk, and frame the vitriolic debate over its safety as one of freedom of choice.

Progressive Conservative politician Bill Murdoch, whose riding contains Schmidt's farm outside Durham, Ont., said consumers should have the freedom to buy unpasteurized milk legally.

People are drinking it anyway, and regulating the supply would help ensure its safety and protect their health, Murdoch said.

"Other countries all seemed to have worked out a deal somehow. We should have a serious debate about this, like Michael wants."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Swords no sweat for ETF

SWAT If he's sweating, it's tough to tell.

There's no hint of unease on Sgt. Ozzy Veit's face as he wraps up the phone call that summons his squad to 12 Division, where they'll take the "emotionally distressed" owner of Samurai swords into custody.

For anyone else, this would at least get the heart pumping. For Veit, it's all in a day's work in the Emergency Task Force.

This is where officers take on the dangerous jobs: the raids, the takedowns, the treacherous criminal transports.

With a detailed layout of his home, including the location of the swords, police plan to take this man into custody. But this plan turns to a cut-and-run operation when the team gets word the suspect left his house unexpectedly. Thus, the team races to SUVs.

The team jumps from the SUVs once they reach the street outside the man's house and swiftly jog, in unison, without a sound, toward their man. The "kid" freezes when he sees the ETF round the corner. They exchange a few words and retreat. Two divisional police officers, who hung back until the ETF team gave them a thumbs up, handcuff him.

With that, the ETF climb back into their convoy and go as quickly as they came.

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Calls

- Toronto's ETF has answered 812 calls so far this year — 622 involving weapons, 121 of checks into explosive devices and 69 "emotionally disturbed events."

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Teen charged for uttering threats

A 16-year-old Georgetown teen, who cannot be named because of his age, has been charged after two high school students say they were threatened with bodily harm. Halton Police said the accused teen is alleged to have made several threats, including that he would shoot two students. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tower taxes to be appealed

A decision that sliced hundreds of millions of dollars from the property tax assessments of Toronto's biggest office towers can be appealed, a court has ruled.

The issue involves an obscure legal argument over the precise meaning of the words "fee simple, if unencumbered."

But the consequences are real: If the towers are successful, they could be granted millions of dollars in tax refunds.

The owners of the towers appealed their 2001 assessments, which affect assessments in subsequent years as well.

The Assessment Review Board subsequently sided with the towers, which include all the financial district towers named after the big banks, plus Brookfield Place (formerly BCE Place).

But Justice Andromache Karakatsanis granted the City of Toronto and the provincial Municipal Property Assessment Corp. leave to appeal the decision to divisional court.

Lawyers expect the appeal to be heard sometime next year.

"The saga goes on, sort of like the Trojan War," said lawyer David Fleet, who represents some of the office towers.

The owners of the towers say they should be valued the same way houses are — as empty buildings, with no tenants and no furnishings.

Their valuation for the buildings collectively is estimated at about $3.5 billion.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Assessment

- In simplest terms, the city and the assessment corporation say the towers should be valued as going concerns, with rent-paying tenants in place. That produces a collective value for the towers of almost $5 billion for 1999, the valuation year used to calculate 2001 taxes.

Police look for help in pair of abductions

PEEL A man was arrested today and charged after a 9-year-old boy was kidnapped and repeatedly sexually assaulted for six hours before being released in Brampton Monday.

The boy had been walking to a Brampton school when the suspect allegedly grabbed him. He was forced into a nearby home where he was held for six hours. Police say the abductor then dropped the child off in the same area where he had been kidnapped.

The victim told his parents what happened and they called police.

Lucas Petrini, 18, of Everrett, Ont., is facing a slew of charges including kidnapping, uttering a death threat, assault, sexual assault, exposure to a person under 16-years-old, sexual interference, invitation to sexual touching and possession of a weapon.

He appeared in Brampton court early yesterday.

Around 1 p.m., an 11-year-old girl was walking along Beech Ave., north of Queen St. E., on her way back to Balmy Beach Jr. Community School, when a man in a green van approached her, said Const. Wendy Drummond of Toronto police.

The girl told police that the man tried to pull her into the vehicle but she was able to break free. She ran to school and told officials what happened, who then called police.

The suspect is described as a male, possibly white. He was tall and wearing dark clothing.

He was driving a green older model van, possibly a Dodge Caravan. There was a dent to the passenger's side door.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Tips?

- Anyone with information on the Brampton case is asked to call police at 905-453-2121 ext. 3460.
- In either case, anonymous tips can be sent to Crime Stoppers at 416-222-TIPS

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Mental health nurse admits guilt

8 local

A nurse employed at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health will lose her licence after admitting to having sex with a patient. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Cell-ebrating film from small screen

As if cellphones have anything to do with making calls.

Everybody but Luddites and the elderly know their real purpose is shooting video of kittens, UFOs and the hangings of former dictators.

But tonight's Mobifest, an event celebrating made-for-mobile filmmaking, aims to change that. The festival, one of a growing number of similar events around the world, aims to elevate cellphone video to the level of art. Think less about public Taserings and more about film on an epically small scale.

We're going beyond the ... YouTube moment to actually crafting a film," says Mobifest founder Duncan Kennedy. "We're between YouTube and the traditional film festival in that respect."

Mobifest, taking place tonight at the Revue Cinema, features films that are 90 seconds or less — harkening to the days when cellphones didn't have enough memory for anything longer — and made specifically for the "sliver" screen.

This year's finalists, whittled to 38 from hundreds of submissions range from comedy to horror to travel documentary and reflect the medium's evolving parameters. More than half were actually shot on cellphones, compared to about 25 per cent in Mobifest's first year.

Another change: only five of this year's finalists are local. International interest has increased, and over the past year Kennedy has struck deals with 10 other mobile-film festivals to show each other's winners.

Mobifest takes place at the Revue Cinema (400 Roncesvalles Ave.) today at 7 p.m. Tickets are $5.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Growing industry

- A U.S. market research firm, reported that shipments of cellphones with video capability will exceed those of TVs internationally in 2008. And the medium got a major boost earlier this year when Robert Redford told reporters he was excited by the prospect of producing mobile films.

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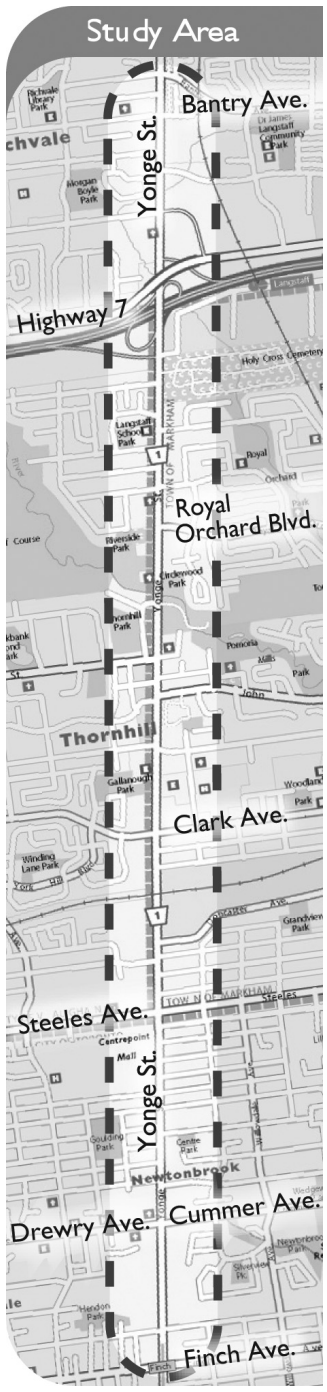
Yonge Subway Extension

NOTICE OF COMMENCEMENT OF THE TRANSIT PROJECT ASSESSMENT PROCESS

The City of Toronto and Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) are now partners with The Regional Municipality of York on a proposed extension of the Yonge Street Subway, from its current terminus at Finch Station to the Richmond Hill Centre at Yonge Street and Highway 7. Conceptual Planning and Functional Planning studies have provided an evaluation of alignment alternatives, station locations and associated facilities in consultation with public and government stakeholders, to develop a technically feasible solution, including preliminary construction methods. The results of this study are the basis for the Transit Project. The purpose of this notice is to indicate that the City of Toronto and Toronto Transit Commission are joining The Regional Municipality of York as co-proponents of this project.



The Transit Project is an underground 6.5 km, 6 subway station extension of the Yonge Street Subway from its terminus at Finch Station to a proposed terminus at Richmond Hill Centre. Stations are proposed at Cummer Avenue/Drewry Avenue, Steeles Avenue, Clark Avenue, Royal Orchard Boulevard, Longbridge Road/Langstaff Road and Richmond Hill Centre. An intermodal bus terminal and passenger pickup and dropoff facility are proposed for Steeles Station.

The Transit Project follows the Yonge Street right-of-way from Finch Station to south of Highway 407. Alternative alignments from south of Highway 407 to Richmond Hill Centre are being examined. The subway tunnels cross under Hydro One's high voltage transmission corridor which parallels Highway 407. A commuter parking lot, as well as passenger pickup and dropoff facilities are proposed to be located on the Hydro One/Ontario Realty Corporation (ORC) lands south of Highway 407. An easement will be required from Hydro One/ORC as part of the undertaking. It is intended that this project will also address the requirements of the ORC Class Environmental Assessment Process.

The Yonge Subway Extension Transit Project Assessment Process is following Ontario Regulation 231/08, Transit Projects and Greater Toronto Transportation Authority Undertakings (2008). The environmental impact of this Transit Project will be assessed in accordance with the Transit Project Assessment Process as prescribed in Ontario Regulation 231/08.

As part of the Transit Project Assessment Process, an Environmental Project Report is being prepared. Draft technical papers of the report will be available shortly at the two locations listed below and on the project website accessible via **www.vivayork.com**. Public consultation will occur in December 2008 to discuss the Transit Project, potential effects and proposed mitigation measures. Additional information and materials will be posted on the project website as they become available.

Information on the City and TTC involvement and Council decisions on the project are available online at: **www.toronto.ca/involved**

Review Locations:
Ministry of the Environment
Central Region Office
5775 Yonge Street, 8th Floor
North York, ON M2M 4J1
416-326-6700

Toronto Transit Commission
Carolyn Embury
5160 Yonge Street, 11th Floor
North York, ON M2L 6L9
416-397-8765

Comments:
To obtain additional information or provide comments, please contact:

Dale Albers, Chief Communication Officer
York Region Rapid Transit Corporation
1 West Pearce Street, 6th Floor
Richmond Hill, ON L4B 3K3
Phone: 905-886-6767 x2250
Fax: 905-886-6969
Email: dale.albers@york.ca

Scott Bowers, Consultant Project Manager
McCormick Rankin Corporation
2655 North Sheridan Way, Suite 300
Mississauga, ON L5K 2P8
Phone: 905-823-8500
Fax: 905-823-8503
Email: sbowers@mrc.ca

Information will be collected in accordance with the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. With the exception of personal information, all comments will become part of the public record.

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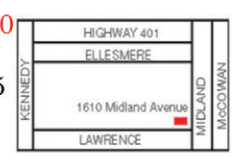

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Queen's cancels homecoming

Queen's University has cancelled its traditional fall homecoming for the next two years, citing an "unprecedented number" of charges, violent incidents and injuries at this year's event. A letter sent to the alumni of the Kingston, Ont., university says the event will be replaced by a spring reunion in May. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada

Alberta's surplus shrinking

Plummeting oil prices and crashing stock markets have bitten a $6.5-billion chunk from Alberta's budget surplus estimate, but the province says it still expects record energy revenues this year. Alberta's Heritage Savings Trust Fund has also taken a $1.2-billion hit, while endowment and pension funds have lost billions more that have yet to be tallied.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Young drivers upset with proposed rules

Sean Rowe, 16, Grade 11 at E.C. Drury High School in Milton. "I planned on getting my license so I could not only drive myself but family and friends around. My mom had counted on me being able to drive my little sisters to their guitar lessons and visits with friends. My mom is disappointed. The girls could take Milton transit. They're improving on it. But it's not as good as Toronto and Mississauga."

"We were taught car-pooling can save the environment. Now the government is contradicting itself with this new law."
Megan Cassivi, 17

Megan Cassivi, 17, goes to E. C. Drury High School in Milton. "I think it's ridiculous. It means after school, I can't drive me and my friends to the mall or the movies. I do that now. It's just stupid. One of my friends, who is 17, already has a year of driving under her belt. Whereas a 22-year-old who has got her license can drive anyone around right after having only a day's experience.

We were taught car-pooling can save the environment. Now the government is contradicting itself with this new law."

Both Cassivi and Drake are G2 drivers.

As a target of Ontario's proposed law to put young drivers on a tighter leash, 21-year-old University of Toronto student Stephanie Schmidt isn't thrilled.

She finds the limit on having no more than one passenger in the car if you're under 19 "a bit restrictive" as part of a bigger package of tough reforms designed to put the brakes on a spate of fatal crashes involving young people.

The changes also forbid having even one drink before driving if you're under 22 — a zero blood-alcohol level is required.

Winnipeg **Oldest polar bear dies**

MIKE APORIUS/THE CANADIAN PRESS/WINNIPEG FREE PRESS

Debby, the world's oldest polar bear, from the Assiniboine Park Zoo died at the age of 41 in Winnipeg, Man., yesterday. Debby was put to sleep after suffering from several strokes and organ failure.

News in brief

HELICOPTERS The long-awaited first flight of Canada's new navy helicopter occurred over the weekend in Florida in a step builder Sikorsky Corp. called "a huge milestone."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Regulations will reduce deaths: Expert

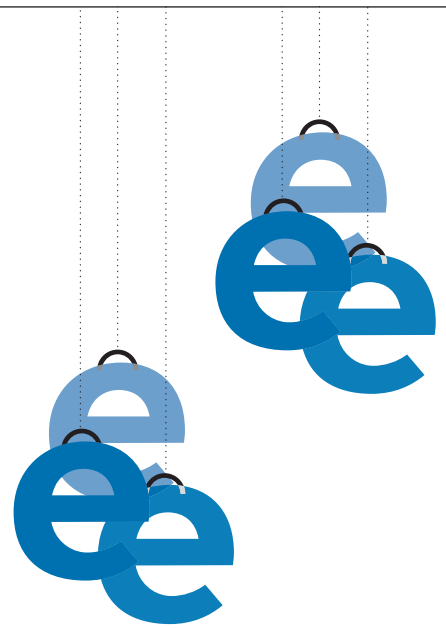
DRIVERS Tough new regulations for teen drivers should reduce traffic fatalities by 30 per cent, says Peter Christianson, president of Young Drivers of Canada.

"Since graduated licensing, there's been a huge reduction in accidents. They've been able to cut the number of fatalities by 30 per cent," he said. "With these (new) changes they should be able to obtain another 30 per cent."

Listeria outbreak mishandled: CFIA

COMMUNICATION The Canadian Food Inspection Agency could have done a far better job communicating with the public during this summer's listeria outbreak, a top official at the federal agency concedes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



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Radwanski verdict due Dec. 19
The judge in the trial of former privacy commissioner George Radwanski says he will likely deliver his verdict on Dec. 19. Radwanski and his former chief of staff, Art Lamarche, are charged with fraud and breach of trust. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dental care access to be opened up

CHILDREN Ontario's underprivileged children should receive better access to dental care in the New Year, Health Minister David Caplan said yesterday.

Complications from tooth decay, an infectious disease, affects six to 10 per cent of all preschoolers according to a new report from the Ontario Dental Association.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

RCMP toys recalled

Prompted by a Toronto Star investigation, the federal government is recalling millions of RCMP-themed toys because they contain dangerously high levels of lead and pose a choking hazard to children.

It is the largest recall of products in Canada on record.

The stuffed animal Mounties join a growing and shocking list of toxic toys and jewelry Health Canada failed to keep away from children until the Star did its own testing.

We found high levels of lead in a baby pacifier, a jewelry-making kit advertised as "Lead Free," and a dollar-store scrapbook charm so full of lead that Health Canada determined a child could die from swallowing the penny-sized bauble.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Mounties

- The made-in-China Mounties were imported by Northern Gifts of Burnaby, B.C., and are dressed in a red jacket with gold-coloured buttons and a brown plastic belt with gold buckle.

Afghanistan **Keeping busy**

BILL GRAVELAND/THE CANADIAN PRESS

An Afghan worker takes a break while Canadian soldiers look on. Afghan workers dig irrigation districts near the village of Pasab yesterday. Canadian military officials say putting the local Afghans to work keeps them from joining the Taliban.

Charest vows to eliminate taxes on cultural products

QUEBEC Premier Jean Charest, whose criticism of federal arts cuts hampered the Conservatives' bid for election gains in Quebec, is trying to secure support within the cultural community.

Yesterday, Charest promised that a re-elected Liberal government would eliminate the 7.5 per cent provincial sales tax on Quebec cultural products, including compact discs and videos, and movie, museum and cultural event tickets.

$50M

- Dropping the tax on cultural products would cost the treasury about $50 million.

The move fits with Charest's strategy of trying to recapture a majority government on Dec. 8 by attracting more francophone and nationalist votes.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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— Rosa Macleod, Ontario

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*Includes all taxes and freight. Prizes may not be exactly as shown.

Schwarzenegger convenes global climate change summit in California

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger has opened his climate change summit in Beverly Hills, Calif., telling attendees from 20 countries they can protect both the environment and their economies. He hopes the summit will influence negotiations over a new global climate treaty during a United Nations gathering in Poland next month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World

Provincial elections Jan. 31: Iraq

Iraq says it will hold long-awaited provincial elections Jan. 31. They will be the first provincial elections since 2005, when Iraq's insurgency was far stronger than it is now. While the security situation has improved, Iraqi politics are still vulnerable to sectarian divisions among the country's major factions: Shiites, Sunni Arabs and Kurds.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israeli tanks rumble into Gaza

Israeli tanks pushed into the Gaza Strip yesterday, drawing mortar fire from Palestinian fighters and intensifying violence that has chipped away at a tenuous ceasefire.

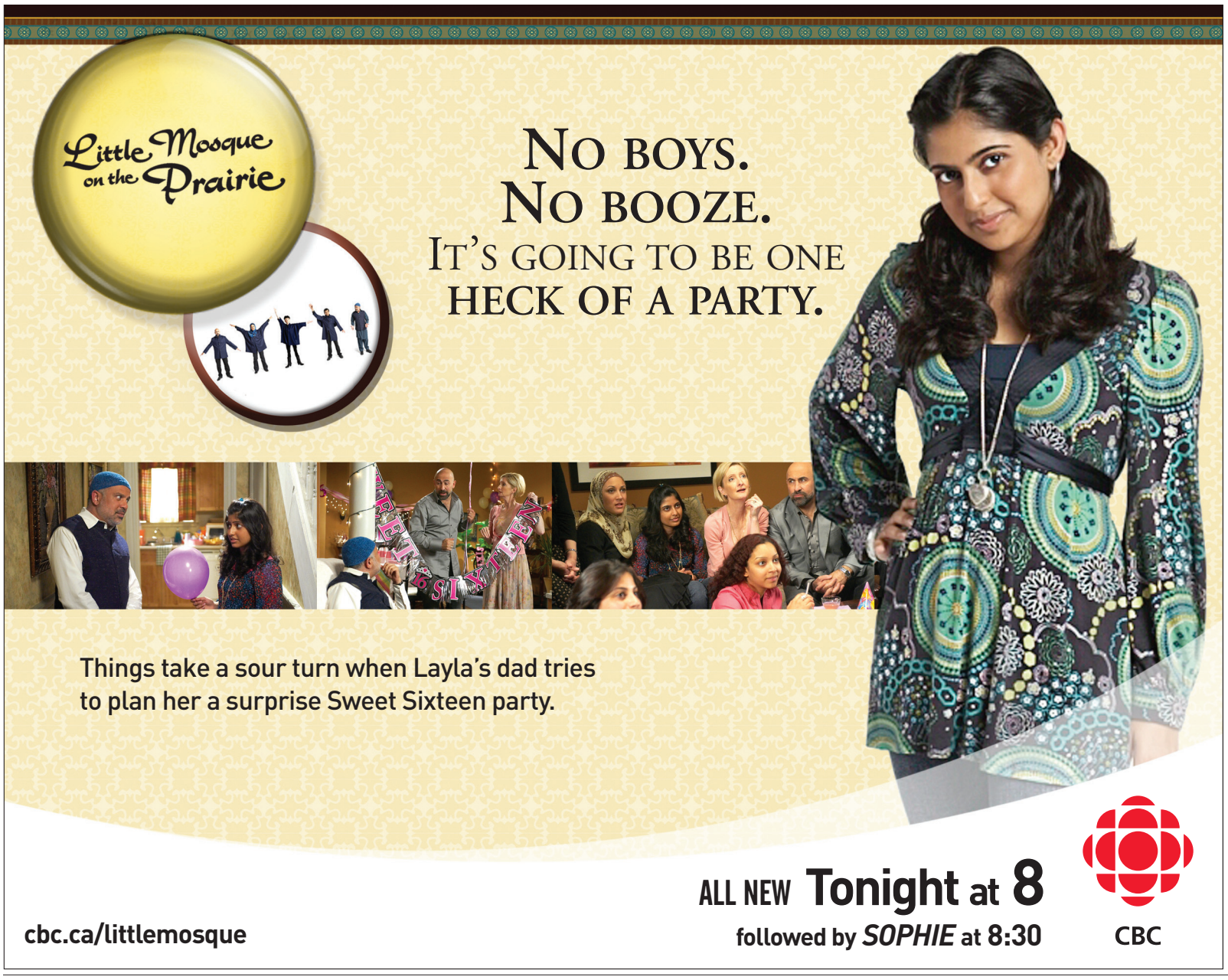
Israel and Gaza's ruling Hamas movement have been trading fire for two weeks after nearly five months of relative quiet. The violence comes as the Egyptian-negotiated truce that began June 19 is due to expire next month, and both sides might be trying to dictate more favourable terms in anticipation of the agreement's renewal.

The tanks rumbled about a half kilometre into the tiny seaside strip, residents and Gaza security officials said. Residents said they levelled lands along the border east of the city of Rafah near the Egyptian border.

The Israeli military described the activity as "a routine operation to uncover explosive devices." Palestinian groups said they fired mortars and rockets at the tanks, which did not return fire. The military withdrew from the area by early afternoon, according to Gaza officials. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Casualties

- At least 17 militants have been killed since the June truce between Israel and Hamas began unravelling.



Lieberman to hold on to chairmanship

POLITICS Democrats are letting Senator Joe Lieberman keep his prized chairmanship of the Senate Homeland Security Committee despite supporting Republican John McCain for president.

Democratic Senator Tom Harkin said yesterday the verdict came in a closed-door meeting on Capitol Hill.

The Connecticut senator lost the Democratic nomination for his re-election bid two years ago over his vocal support for the war in Iraq, but won in the fall as an independent.

Lieberman has stayed on the Democratic side of the aisle in the Senate but generated lots of hard feelings among Democrats for his active support of McCain.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ISRAEL Archeologists digging in northern Israel have discovered the 12,000-year-old skeleton of what they say was a witch doctor. They said the skeleton was that of a deformed woman of around 45 years of age from the Natufian culture, which ranged from Syria to the Sinai peninsula at the time.

ART A $23 million US ceiling painting featuring hundreds of dangling icicle shapes that has been criticized for its hefty price tag was unveiled yesterday at the United Nations. Spain's government said it is paying 40 per cent of the costs. Of the public money, $633,000 comes from a budget for overseas development aid and international organizations like the UN. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

China warns Tibetan exiles against any push for independence
With hundreds of Tibetan exiles now considering whether to push for independence, China yesterday reaffirmed its hardline stance on the future of the Himalayan region, saying that any move to separate Tibet from China was "doomed." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Northern Ireland leaders end deadlock

Northern Ireland's long-feuding Protestant and Catholic leaders ended a five-month deadlock yesterday by agreeing to form a Justice Department that will oversee the police and courts.

Catholics have long rejected British control of law enforcement and justice in Northern Ireland. Handing joint control to British Protestants and Irish Catholics is meant to ensure that a power-sharing deal between the two sides will not unravel, undoing the central objective of a decade-old peace agreement.

"This is the last building block in the process for bringing peace and democracy to Northern Ireland."
Gordon Brown

"This is the last building block in the process for bringing peace and democracy to Northern Ireland," British Prime Minister Gordon Brown said in response to the agreement.

First Minister Peter Robinson, a Protestant, and Deputy First Minister Martin McGuinness, a Catholic, stood side by side at Stormont Castle – the power-sharing base in Protestant east Belfast – to unveil a deal reached in behind-the-scenes negotiations over the weekend.

The agreement commits both sides to support the selection of a politician from another party to oversee the new Justice Department.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taliban nixed talks because of power: U.S.

AFGHANISTAN The top U.S. military officer says the Taliban is doing well right now, and it's no surprise that the militants would reject settlement talks with the Afghan government.

Admiral Mike Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told The Associated Press in an interview that the Taliban feels confident enough in its success to, as he put it, negotiate from a position of strength.

Taliban leaders spurned an offer of negotiations Monday, saying they would not entertain talks so long as foreign forces remain in Afghanistan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Girl allegedly raped, forced to work by aunt

ABUSE A Massachusetts woman has been charged with raping and beating her teenage niece and forcing her to work for the rest of the household in a "Cinderella-type situation."

Mara Escobar was ordered held on $25,000 US bail after pleading not guilty at her arraignment Monday to multiple charges, including assault and battery on a child and rape of a child with force.

Police Sgt. Kerry Hazelhurst said the 16-year-old girl was forced to do housework and live in a sparsely furnished room while Escobar's two daughters had TVs, DVD players, video games and toys in their rooms.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

DENIAL China yesterday dismissed suggestions that it is seeking to illegally obtain U.S. space technology after a scientist in the United States was convicted of violating the arms embargo on China by selling rocket technology to the Asian power.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Italy seizes suspected Mafia assets worth $465 million from store boss

Italian authorities have seized assets worth $465 million from a supermarket chain owner suspected of letting the Mafia use his businesses to launder money. Giuseppe Grigoli was arrested last year and is in jail while the investigation continues. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pirates take over Iranian-operated ship: U.S.

PIRACY The U.S. navy said yesterday that a cargo ship has been hijacked off Somalia — the latest in a series of attacks by pirates operating out of the war-torn African country.

The Bahrain-based 5th Fleet said the bulk cargo carrier was attacked yesterday in the Gulf of Aden, and that the ship was flying a Hong Kong flag but is operated by the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines.

China's official Xinhua news agency, citing the country's maritime search and rescue centre, said a Hong Kong ship named "Delight" was hijacked by pirates in the area.

The ship was carrying 32,000 tonnes of wheat and had 25 crew aboard.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hijacked Saudi vessel anchored off Somalia

Pirates who seized a Saudi supertanker loaded with two million barrels of crude oil anchored the ship within sight of impoverished Somali fishing villages yesterday.

Saudi Arabia said yesterday that it will join the international fight against piracy, and Somali officials vowed to try to rescue the supertanker by force if necessary.

But with naval forces unwilling to intervene, shipowners in past piracy cases have ended up paying ransoms for their ships, cargoes and crew.

The U.S. and other naval forces decided against intervention in the seizure of the supertanker, the Sirius Star.

NATO said it would not divert any of its three warships from the Gulf of Aden, and the Bahrain-based 5th Fleet also said it did not expect to send ships to try to intercept the ship. The tanker was seized over the weekend about 830 kilometres off the Kenyan coast.

Never before have Somali pirates seized such a giant ship so far out to sea — and never a vessel so large. The captors of the Sirius Star anchored the ship close to a main pirate den on the Somali coast, Harardhere.

The Sirius Star's cargo is worth about $120 million at current prices, but the pirates have no known way to unload it from the tanker. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crew's status

- The owner of the Saudi tanker, Vela International Marine Ltd., said the vessel's 25 crew members "are believed to be safe." The statement made no mention of a ransom or contacts with the bandits.

More residents return after California fires

DEVASTATION Smoky skies cleared and once-whipping winds slowed to a standstill yesterday as another wave of those who fled Southern California's ferocious weekend wildfires prepared to sort through the remains of their homes.

Three fires have destroyed roughly 1,000 homes and apartments and burned 168 square kilometres, forcing thousands to flee. Their causes were under investigation, though a human cause was suspected in a Santa Barbara County blaze.

Los Angeles police officials were still looking for residents of 166 properties who have not yet contacted authorities. Officials listed the numbers of those spaces and urged the residents to confirm they are alive and well.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Comment & Views

Comment

Tougher rules for seniors?

Cognitive decline poses many driving hazards

In Step

Christine Williams

Politics and social issues

As Ontario prepares to implement tougher legislation on new drivers, one father in particular has been at the foreground of the campaign to convince the Ontario government to implement zero tolerance rules for drinking and speeding.

Tim Mulcahy began his fight in July after the death of his 20-year-old son Tyler, who crashed through a guardrail following an afternoon of drinking. Two other passengers were also killed, leaving Tyler's girlfriend the lone survivor. Mr. Mulcahy later learned that his son had a history of speeding tickets. He now argues that Tyler could have been alive today if his licence had been revoked.

Several Canadian provinces have been clamping down on teen drinking and driving. Manitoba and Nova Scotia have zero-tolerance policies, and Ontario's laws are said to be the strictest in the country.

While many would applaud a decision to impose tougher rules — given the numerous tragic outcomes when you blend youthful zeal, alcohol and vehicle speed — there is another growing deadly phenomenon that we need to confront: cognitively declining seniors who keep on driving, even when they have become a danger on the road.

This hazard is too often ignored because of obvious sensitivities pertaining to independence and autonomy. To the credit of many seniors, they self-regulate their driving habits like avoiding rush-hour traffic, inclement weather conditions and driving in the night.

"While age is not necessarily a sentence to throw away the car keys, inevitable changes do occur with hearing, vision, depth perception, flexibility and reaction time."

These seniors recognize that while age is not necessarily a sentence to throw away the car keys, inevitable changes do occur with hearing, vision, depth perception, flexibility and reaction time.

But the toughest challenge is when mental functioning is too declined for the senior to even recognize a problem exists. Then it is up to family members and doctors to collaborate, a difficult task given relationships can be ruined in the process.

Overall there is insufficient provincial legislation aimed at protecting vulnerable seniors and other drivers they share the road with. Mr. Mulcahy lobbied for government regulations before more tragedies could happen to families whose hands are tied. We also need to explore regulations for seniors.

While it has long been a celebrated tradition to point out the dangers of youth recklessness, seniors are setting a new benchmark when it comes to our roads.

In Ontario, the 80-plus age group is the fastest growing, while Canada-wide 70 per cent of driver's licence holders are 55 and older. That percentage is rapidly accelerating. The Canada Safety Council now warns that senior drivers have more collisions than any other age group — a time sensitive issue we need to address now.

Christine Williams is the producer and host of the live current affairs daily talk show On the Line at CTS TV in Burlington, Ont.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Word on the street: Are you cutting back this holiday season?

Shannon Conway
age 18, Toronto

A: Yes, because I don't have a job any more and I can't afford my lifestyle of constantly spending. I'll be shopping at the sale rack more and buying less.

Christiane Mitchell
age 25, Toronto

A: Yes, I'm definitely going to be cutting back this season. I think everybody kind of feels like we're in an abundance of personal materials, and it's just not necessary any more.

Stephen Telka
age 26, Toronto

A: No. The reason is I just got a new job and I have more disposable income.

Danuzia Pinheiro
age 35, Ottawa

A: I just came to Canada and I'm trying to spend as little as possible. So for sure I'll be spending less than last year.

Ash Sani
age 27, Vancouver

A: No, not at all. It has not been that bad for the small business I work for — actually its been better financially for me this year.

metro life panel

Metro Life Panel

Results from the Canadian Metro Life Panel (374 respondents):
Yes: 62.9%
No: 37.1 %

Will you spend more, less or about the same this holiday on food and entertainment?
More: 9.3 %
Less: 37.4 %
About the same: 53.3 %

Letters

Angela Ilasi, TORONTO

Re: Confronting harsh reality in Toronto schools, Nov. 14

I read Christine Williams' views on school security with interest. We are completely off-target in handling the issue of violence in schools. There are very real factors that are constantly ignored.

First, most of the "trouble kids" are given psychological and psychiatric treatment the moment they exhibit some kind of emotion that is not the usual drone-like standard.

They are given mind-altering psychiatric medication proven to cause both suicide and violence.

Second, we completely ignore the potential causes of the behaviour in the first place — such as the family situation of the student, physical health, etc.

How about caring about the students and enriching them and helping them with their troubles so they don't turn to gangs? Only then, we will see a decrease in school violence.

Sarah Sonne, VANIER, ONT.

I am a 25-year-old Canadian woman. I am writing to commend the Conservative Party for passing Resolution P-207 (protecting pregnant women) at their policy convention this past weekend.

Passing legislation that recognizes the injury or death of an unborn child during an attack on a pregnant woman is something that will secure my vote for, and trust in, the Conservative Party.

I am looking forward to the day when I can be pregnant and know that my decision to keep my child is respected and my unborn child is fully protected. Thank you for listening to my voice, and the voice of many other young women, and making it Party policy to protect us in the way we want to be protected.

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U.S. report shows falling fuel prices
Oil prices continued to fall yesterday as a U.S. government report showed that gasoline prices in October plunged further than they ever have and home heating oil, natural gas and liquefied petroleum gas fell substantially. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Paulson pressed on bailout

Homeowners not benefitting from funds: U.S. lawmakers

Faced with exasperated lawmakers upset by shifts in bailout strategy, U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson launched a spirited defence yesterday of his handling of the $700-billion US program and expressed fresh reservations about tapping the pool for mortgage guarantees to relieve skyrocketing home foreclosures.

Members of the House Financial Services Committee grilled Paulson for not doing enough to help distressed homeowners and for failing to force banks that get some of the bailout money to specifically use it to bolster lending to customers, one of the prime reasons behind the rescue package.

"It is essential" that some of the bailout money be used to ease foreclosures, said the panel's chairman, Representative Barney Frank (D-Mass.), a key player in shaping the package that Congress passed and President George W. Bush signed into law Oct. 3.

Foreclosures

- While Paulson was resistant to using some of the bailout money to provide mortgage guarantees, he said the administration will look for ways to provide foreclosure relief.

Amid fits and starts in the administration's rollout and direction of the program, "I have to say at this point that public confidence in what we have done so far is lower than anybody would want it to be, to the point where it could be an obstacle to further steps," Frank lamented.

In a break with the administration, Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. chairman Sheila Bair, made a fresh pitch for using $24 billion of the bailout pool to help Americans at risk of losing their homes. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is urging Paulson to support the FDIC plan.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Energy demand rises 5.5 per cent: StatsCan

A new study says Canada's demand for energy rose 5.5 per cent last year as consumption increased in the country's industrial, transportation, residential and commercial sectors.

Statistics Canada reports Canadians consumed 7,968 petajoules of energy in 2007, up from 7,551 in 2006.

The agency says one petajoule equals roughly the amount of energy required to operate the Montreal subway system for one year.

Energy use derived from the three main fossil fuels — natural gas, refined petroleum products and coal — rose seven per cent.

The largest user of energy was the transportation sector, where consumption rose 5.1 per cent and accounted for about 31 per cent of final demand.

Consumption in the industrial sector, the second-largest user of energy, was up 6.6 per cent, due primarily to increased demand in mining, oil-and-gas extraction, and iron and steel.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Provincial high

- Alberta's growth in consumption of energy led the provinces in 2007, increasing 13.5 per cent from 2006.

Takeover **Biggest brewer**

GEERT VANDEN WIJNGAERT/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Inbev CEO Carlos Brito is seen in April after the annual Inbev shareholders meeting in Brussels. Yesterday, InBev SA formed the world's largest brewer when it finalized its $52 billion US takeover of Anheuser-Busch Cos. Inc. The new company, named Anheuser-Busch InBev, will be headquartered in Belgium.

Telus injecting $100M in health-care

TELECOMS Telus Corp. plans to invest $100 million over three years in its health-care technology business to build and run networks sharing medical records and other information.

Telecom analyst Carmi Levy of AR Communications described the move yesterday as a "master stroke" for Canada's second-largest telecommunications company, which operates in an increasingly competitive telecom industry.

Telus Health Solutions, with 1,500 employees, is based on Emergis, the Montreal electronic commerce company Telus acquired early this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In brief

WESTON International baked goods company George Weston Ltd. says its U.S. food prices will not be going down despite a drop in commodity prices that drove them up to begin with. The company said Canadian pricing will also stay at current levels, given that wheat is priced in U.S. dollars and the Canadian dollar has fallen.

CALGARY UPS Canada said it is building a $26-million distribution centre at the Calgary International Airport to deal with a big jump in the packaging company's Alberta business. The new centre will employ 415 people and house 157 trucks.

PAPER Newsprint giant Abitibi-Bowater Inc. will decide on the fate of a troubled paper mill — a major employer in central Newfoundland — before the end of the year, the provincial government said yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. October price drop breaks record
Wholesale prices in the United States in October fell 2.8 per cent, the biggest one-month drop on records that go back more than 60 years. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

No consumer benefit in banks' card choice: Groups

Canada's credit card industry is overwhelmingly dominated by giants Visa and MasterCard, and a new federal policy that would allow banks to offer both brands will do nothing to change that, two national business associations said yesterday.

Competition Bureau commissioner Sheridan Scott said in a recent letter that the agency believes the two major credit card brands will remain independent because they're now publicly traded companies, rather than owned by banks.

"By allowing banks to issue multiple credit cards, consumers will benefit from increased choice and better service," Scott concludes in a letter dated Nov. 7.

Peter Woolford, the Retail Council of Canada's vice-president of policy development, said the group "respectfully disagrees" that consumers will benefit from allowing banks to carry both brands.

"Every time you or I use our credit card at the point of sale, the merchant is returning about two per cent of that to Visa or MasterCard. So it's like a tax," Woolford said from Ottawa.

"Visa and MasterCard will compete with each other for issuers. They will compete very vigorously to persuade different financial institutions to carry and offer their cards," he said.

"Fortunately for Visa and MasterCard, they don't have to cover the costs of those (inducements). They're able to simply pass them through to the merchants, who have no choice but to accept it.

Catharine Swift, president of the Canadian Federation of Independent Business, said yesterday that smaller businesses have little choice but to pass Visa and MasterCard's higher costs to consumers. "This is a duopoly, for all intents and purposes," Swift said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

U.S. Home Depot earnings fall 31%

RETAIL Home Depot Inc. gave investors a welcome surprise yesterday, posting a better-than-expected third-quarter profit and offering Wall Street a second straight day of good news for the battered U.S. home improvement sector.

But the 31 per cent drop in earnings still shows just how badly the chain has been pummelled by the economic meltdown — which executives warned was unlikely to abate any time soon as they predicted a steeper drop in full-year sales.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An additional sign trumpets the reduced price available on an existing home up for sale in Denver in October. Home prices fell in a record four out of five U.S. cities in the third quarter as low-cost foreclosures flooded the market and the U.S. housing market's decline spread throughout the country.

U.S. housing in 'crisis': Report

U.S. homebuilders' confidence in a near-term housing recovery sank to a new all-time low this month, reflecting growing worries over the U.S. financial crisis, rising unemployment and weakening consumer confidence, an industry trade association said yesterday.

The National Association of Home Builders/Wells Fargo housing market index, started in January 1985, tumbled five points to nine in November. The index stood at 14 in October after slipping three points from September.

Index readings higher than 50 indicate positive sentiment about the market. But the index has drifted below 50 since May 2006 and below 20 since April.

"Today's report shows that we are in a crisis situation," NAHB chairman Sandy Dunn said in a statement. "Tremendous economic uncertainties have driven consumers from the housing market, and it's going to take some major incentives to bring them back."

In recent weeks, homebuilders have ratcheted up pressure on Congress to take steps that go beyond trying to reduce foreclosures. the industry wants lawmakers to enact new incentives aimed at getting reluctant home buyers back into the market.

The latest builder index reflects a survey of 422 residential developers nationwide, tracking builders' perceptions of market conditions. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

3,000 jobs affected as Pepsi restructures

GLOBAL Pepsi Bottling Group Inc., which bottles Pepsi beverages, yesterday cut its 2008 profit outlook and announced a restructure that will affect more than 3,000 jobs worldwide.

The bottler said it will refine its selling and service organization, lower its general and administrative expenses, make its supply chain more efficient and modify its defined benefit pension plans in the U.S. and Canada.

The company said about 750 jobs will be affected, and four facilities in the U.S. will be closed.

In Europe, Pepsi Bottling said it will "streamline its organization," which will affect about 200 jobs.

Pepsi Bottling said in Mexico, it will close three plants and 30 distribution centres and will eliminate 700 routes over time. Those changes will affect about 2,200 jobs, the company said.

The company said it will likely save between $150 million to $160 million each year once the restructuring is completed. Pepsi Bottling expects to save at least $70 million in 2009.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

PLATINUM Lonmin PLC, the world's third-largest platinum producer, said yesterday it plans to cut output and jobs and halve its exploration expenditure to ride out a downturn in the market even as annual net profit rose 45 per cent.

NIKO Calgary-based international energy company Niko Resources Ltd. says it has acquired a new exploration block in offshore southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia. The block covers almost 5,000 square kilometres and Niko will have a 25 per cent non-operated working interest. METRO NEWS SERVICES

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Holyfield following in steps of George Foreman

Boxer Evander Holyfield is returning to the ring at age 46 because he wants to become undisputed heavyweight champion again. Holyfield will fight seven-foot WBA champion Nikolai Valuev next month, aiming to become the oldest man to claim a world heavyweight title and the first to win it five times. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

Sports

Pedroia beats out Morneau for MVP

Boston's Dustin Pedroia won the American League MVP award yesterday, becoming the first second baseman to earn the honour in almost 50 years. Pedroia led the AL in hits, runs and doubles in helping the Red Sox win the AL wild-card berth. He batted .326 with 17 home runs and 83 RBIs and also stole 20 bases. B.C.'s Justin Morneau finished a distant second in the voting.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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AP PHOTO/JOHN RAOUX

Chris Bosh scores between Orlando's Dwight Howard and Rashard Lewis during the first half last night.

Turnovers do in Raptors again

NBA RESULT

Raptors 90 **Magic** 103

THE SKINNY: Despite a 40-point, 18-rebound effort from Chris Bosh, the Raptors turned the ball over 21 times in the game and fell 103-90 to the Magic in Orlando.

NO JOSE: Calderon sat out for the second straight game with the right hamstring injury. Starting in his place, Will Solomon turned the ball over seven times.

SHOOTING GOES COLD: The Raptors, who were shooting 59 per cent midway through the second half, began missing shots and turning the ball early in the third quarter, as the Magic went up 67-54 and cruised the rest of the way.

HOT AND NOT FROM BEYOND: Orlando combined to hit 11 threes, shooting 47 per cent from behind the arc. Toronto by comparison was a putrid 2 of 14 for 14 per cent from the land beyond.

SPREADING IT AROUND: Jameer Nelson, Hedo Turkoglu, and Rashard Lewis led the Magic with 22 points. Dwight Howard chipped in with 18, 9 rebounds and three blocks. As a result, the Magic won for the eighth time in nine games.

BOSH HOT: Bosh, matching up at times with Lewis and Howard, made 14 of 19 field goals and 12 of 16 free throws.

CONTAINING D12: Jermaine O'Neal had the better of the battle of big men early, hitting his first four field goals and scoring 10 points in the first quarter as the Raptors built a 26-21 lead. Howard didn't hit a shot from the floor in his first 13 minutes, finally making a basket to end a streak of 39 minutes of playing time in his last two games without a field goal. O'Neal finished with his fourth straight double-double

AVOIDING THE COLD ANOTHER DAY: The Raptors stay in Florida tonight where they play the Heat in Miami.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jumpers to get day in court

Women ski jumpers challenging IOC decision to drop sport

KRISTEN THOMPSON
for Metro Canada

Ten female ski jumpers fighting to get their sport into the 2010 Games will get their day in court, the group announced in Vancouver yesterday.

A hearing date in the discrimination case against the Vancouver Organizing Committee has been set in B.C. Supreme Court for April 20. Deedee Corradini, president of Women's Ski Jumping-USA and a spokesperson for the group, said she believes there's enough time for the case to be heard and a judgment rendered before the Games.

"Things have changed with the Olympic Games several times last minute," she said.

"VANOC has already said that if this decision is made in favour of the women that they will accommodate (them)."

The 10 women, representing current and former top-ranked jumpers from six countries including Canada, filed the suit in May alleging that VANOC's refusal to allow them to compete in a sport for which there is a men's component violates their rights to gender equality.

"If this makes it (into the Games) it'll make such news that people will want to come," Corradini said. "(Even) if we have to pass out hand-made tickets on street corners."

Ross Clark, the lawyer representing the jumpers, said the lawsuit names VANOC and not the International Olympic Committee because VANOC is hosting the Games in Canada, so is responsible to uphold Canada's laws.

"They are bound by the charter (of rights and freedoms) and are prohibited from discriminating on the basis of gender," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/DARRYL DYCK

Ski jumper Zoya Lynch is among a group of ten female ski jumpers who launched the lawsuit.

Unfair?

- The suit alleges that the Vancouver Olympic Games Organizing Committee (VANOC) is discriminating against the women, and that not including them in the Games would violate the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. VANOC says that the charter doesn't apply to the IOC, who decides which sports are allowed the Games.

Sundin expected to be playing somewhere soon

NHL Mats Sundin appears to be aiming for a mid-December comeback, with 11 teams — including the Maple Leafs — interested in his services.

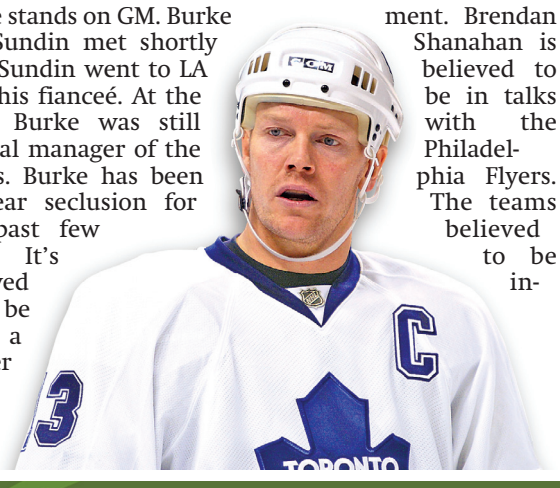
"Mats is currently training daily with the intention to return," Sundin's agent, J.P. Barry said.

"He may still decide not to play, however, if his training regimen doesn't produce the results he expects."

The former Leaf captain is working out in Los Angeles, doing mostly strength and aerobic training. Barry says Sundin will likely start skating before the end of November, making a mid-December return "a reasonable guesstimate."

Leafs GM Cliff Fletcher said it's been "a while" since he spoke with Barry. "We never said we weren't interested, and this is the first I've heard a mid-December comeback," said Fletcher.

It's not clear where Brian Burke stands on GM. Burke and Sundin met shortly after Sundin went to LA with his fianceé. At the time, Burke was still general manager of the Ducks. Burke has been in near seclusion for the past few days. It's believed to be only a matter of time before Burke becomes GM and president of the Toronto Maple Leafs.



Sundin remains the most sought-after free agent on the market. Peter Forsberg remains a question with a foot ailment. Brendan Shanahan is believed to be in talks with the Philadelphia Flyers. The teams believed to be interested in Sundin include the Vancouver Canucks, who offered him $20 million over two years in July; the Ottawa Senators, the New York Rangers, the Tampa Bay Lightning and the Philadelphia Flyers.

The Montreal Canadiens — who had acquired exclusive negotiating rights with Sundin prior to his declaration of free agency on July 1 — have said they are no longer interested in the Swedish centre. The Habs acquired centre Robert Lang from the Blackhawks.

Sundin met with Canucks GM Mike Gillis earlier this month.

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Wakamatsu chosen as M's manager

The Seattle Mariners have picked Don Wakamatsu as their new manager. The Mariners chose the Oakland bench coach, a person familiar with the decision told The Associated Press last night on condition of anonymity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadiens lose fifth in seven games

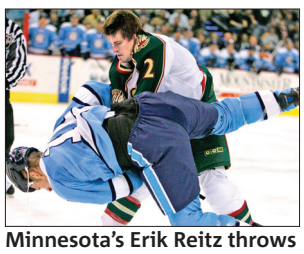
NHL ROUNDUP

Sergei Samsonov and Ray Whitney scored 3½ minutes apart in the third period to help the Carolina Hurricanes rally past the Montreal Canadiens 2-1 last night. Robert Lang scored for the Canadiens, who snapped a lengthy power-play drought yet lost for the third time in four games.

Montreal's Carey Price made a career-high 46 saves and stopped the first 30 shots he faced.

OILERS 7, BLUE JACKETS 2

An opportunistic offence and stellar goaltending was the story as Edmonton built a 3-0 lead on their first eight shots and rode a 37-save performance by Dwayne Roloson to the win to snap a three-game losing streak.



Minnesota's Erik Reitz throws the Pens' Jordan Staal to the ice last night.

WILD 2, PENGUINS 1 (SO)

Marek Zidlicky scored the only goal in the shootout and the Minnesota Wild benefited from a gift goal that Pittsburgh put into its own net for a 2-1 victory last night that ended the Penguins' six-game winning streak. Niklas Backstrom turned aside Petr Sykora, Alex Goligoski and Sidney Crosby in the shootout.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report: Yankees to make Burnett big offer

MLB The New York Post is reporting that the Yankees are close to offering free agent pitcher A.J. Burnett an $80 million contract over five years. Burnett went 18-10 with a 4.07 ERA for the Jays in 2008 before opting out of his deal. Toronto is not expected to offer Burnett more than a four-year package. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Dempster re-signs with Cubs

MLB Canadian pitcher Ryan Dempster and the Chicago Cubs agreed yesterday on a US$52 million, four-year contract that includes a player option to 2012. He gets a $4 million signing bonus, $8 million next year, $12.5 million in 2010 and $13.5 million in 2011. Dempster has a 2012 option for $14 million. Dempster, from Gibsons, B.C., was 17-6 with a 2.96 ERA for the Cubs last season, then became a free agent after making the switch from the closer to starter. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protests cut short Ripken clinic

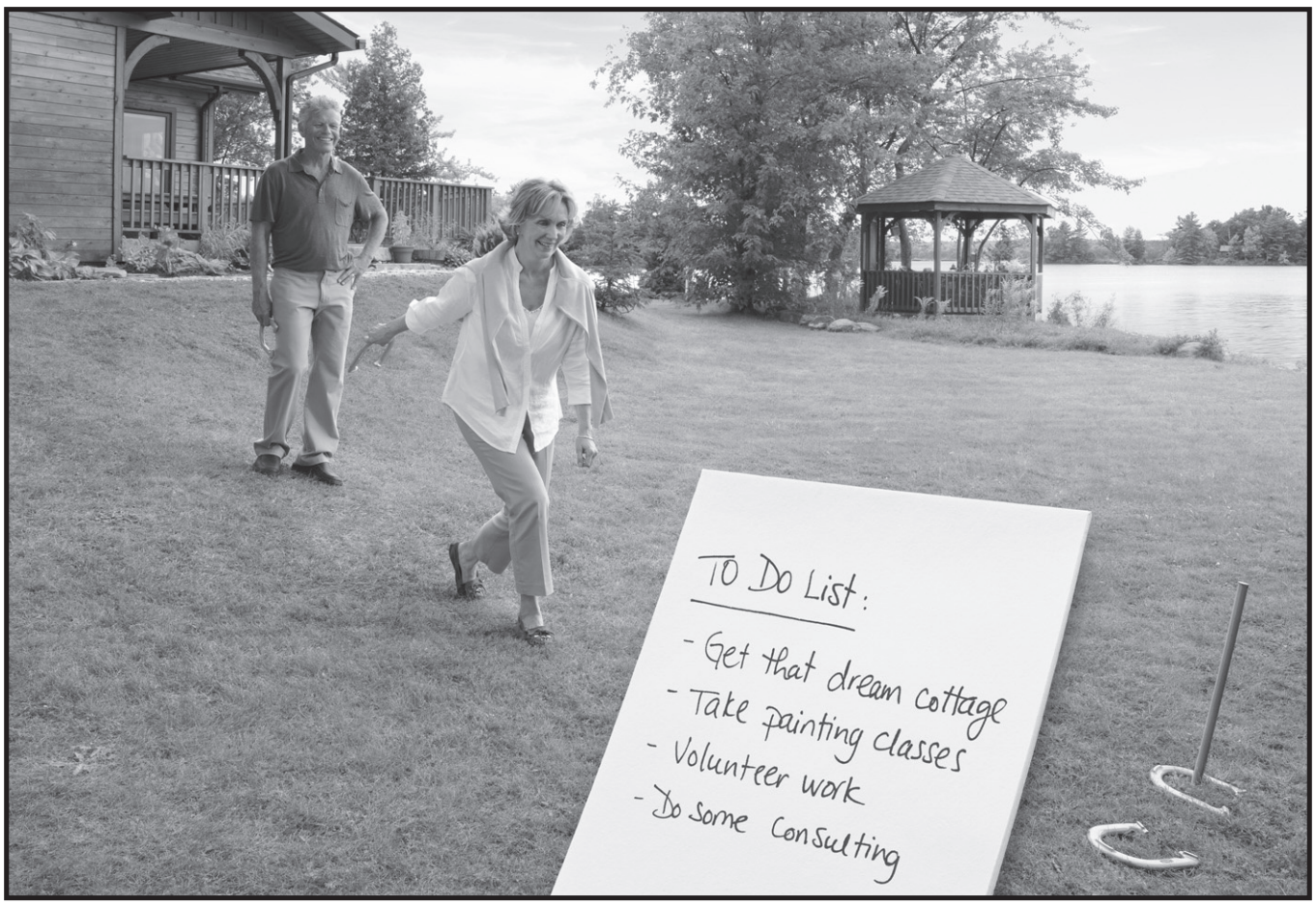
BASEBALL Program sponsors cut short a baseball clinic being taught by Hall of Famer Cal Ripken Jr. for Nicaraguan youth yesterday because of protests surrounding disputed local elections. Ripken and Nicaraguan native Dennis Martinez were expected to take their baseball clinic to Leon this week for a one-day class. But the program sponsors decided to cancel the last day of Ripken's tour because protests were blocking major roads and they were concerned parents and the youths would not be able to attend.

Ballesteros moved from ICU

GOLF Five-time major winner Seve Ballesteros was released from intensive care on Tuesday following brain surgery on a malignant tumour. Madrid's La Paz hospital said in a statement that Ballesteros would remain in hospital "to continue his rehabilitation" following three surgeries in 18 days.

The 51-year-old Spanish golf great underwent a 6 1/2-hour operation on Oct. 24 to remove the brain tumour and reduce swelling around the brain. He was admitted on Oct. 6 after fainting at Madrid's international airport.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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Als looking to avoid hometown distractions
The Montreal Alouettes will move into a hotel this week to avoid Grey Cup distractions and will have what coach Marc Trestman calls a "quiet curfew." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Stamps' Jones ready for shot at Alouettes

YorkReport

Marty York

marty.york@metronews.ca

Determined to win Sunday's Grey Cup game, naturally, are all the dudes who'll be participating in it, but I'm inclined to suggest there's a certain member of the Calgary Stampeders who is even hungrier and more obsessed about emerging victorious.

This would be Chris Jones, the Stamps' defensive co-ordinator.

Jones, you see, was irate that the Montreal Alouettes refused to hire him as their head coach before this season. He was livid that they rejected his application and instead selected Marc Trestman, an NFL coaching castoff who had virtually no CFL experience.

Jones had spent seven seasons as a Montreal assistant coach — five as the Als' defensive co-ordinator — and, understandably, he felt he deserved a shot.

Not that he ever went public with his fury. The University of Tennessee graduate is sharp enough to know how the political game is played in the CFL, and he realizes public criticisms usually get aspiring head coaches nowhere in the little league.

So he bit his lips, and likely will continue to do so in Montreal this week while the Stamps and Als prepare to meet for CFL supremacy.

Jones certainly has let his friends know his feelings, however, and several tell us his anti-Montreal sentiments haven't exactly dissipated.

"Chris wants revenge Sunday, no question about that," a source close to Jones told me. "You won't be off-base if you said he's still bitter and wants to shove it down (the Als') damn throats."

Lady knuckler

- Knuckleballer Eri Yoshida, 16, was drafted by a professional team in a Japanese league. She hopes to become the next Tim Wakefield, the veteran knuckleballer with the Boston Red Sox. For more, check out a clip at metronews.ca/yorkreport.

Quietly under Jones, the Stamps' defence progressed from one of the CFL's worst units last season to the very best. No CFL team yielded fewer points and fewer touchdowns this season than Calgary.

"Chris is a great football coach and he deserves more credit than he seems to get," said B.C. head coach Wally Buono, whose Lions were held to no TDs (six field goals) by the Stamps' defence in last Sunday's Western final. "You could score a lot on Calgary in the past, but not this year."

Jones' first-hand knowledge of the Als' offence gives the Stamps a notable edge. As he said in July, before Calgary upset Montreal in the Als' only meaningful loss at home this season, "I know the things (Montreal quarterback) Anthony Calvillo doesn't feel comfortable seeing and we'll certainly try to exploit some of those if we can."

The Als lost that game 23-19, and I'm sensing a similar outcome this Sunday. I'll elaborate here later this week.

Marty York has been a groundbreaking sports columnist and broadcaster in Canada for decades.

More heat on Bills' Edwards

NFL It wasn't that long ago when Trent Edwards was reminding anyone who cared to listen about not getting too carried away with the Buffalo Bills' hot start because there was still a lot left to the season.

Little did Edwards realize at the time how right he would be; or fathom how far his own performance would drop.

Some two months later, the Bills (5-5) have lost four straight and five of six to go from first to worst in the AFC East following a 29-27 loss to Cleveland on Monday night.

It's been no better for Edwards, whose latest meltdown had him throwing three interceptions on his first six attempts, digging the Bills too deep a hole in a game that was decided on Phil Dawson's career-long 56-yard field goal with 1:39 remaining.

With eight interceptions to go along with two fumbles and a safety in his past four games, Edwards has unravelled at such a rapid pace that he's beginning to second-guess himself.

"You start seeing things that you're not really seeing, and you're doing things that you're not normally used to doing," Edwards said after the game. "Right now, I don't really have any good answers."

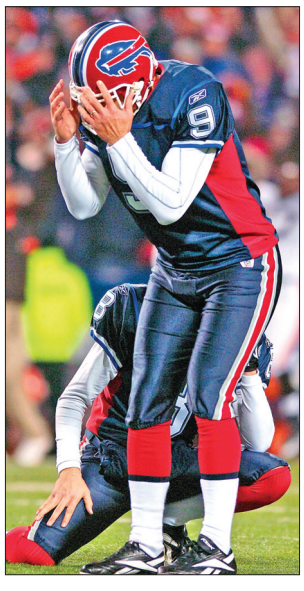
"Right now, I don't really have any good answers."
Trent Edwards

He had better find some quickly, because the Bills have left themselves with little room for error if they intend to snap an eight-year playoff drought, already the longest in franchise history.

The Bills were given yesterday off before they return to practice on Wednesday in preparation for a game at Kansas City on Sunday.

Though, Edwards is taking the brunt of criticism for the Bills' free fall, his job is considered secure for the foreseeable future.

It's unlikely the Bills will make a switch because backup J.P. Losman is considered a short-term fix. Losman is in the final year of his contract and not expected to re-sign with Buffalo this off-season because he's unhappy over losing the starting job twice in his previous three seasons.



In addition to evoking memories of Scott Norwood, Bills' kicker Rian Lindell's 47-yard miss on Monday night may likely have ended Buffalo's playoff hopes.

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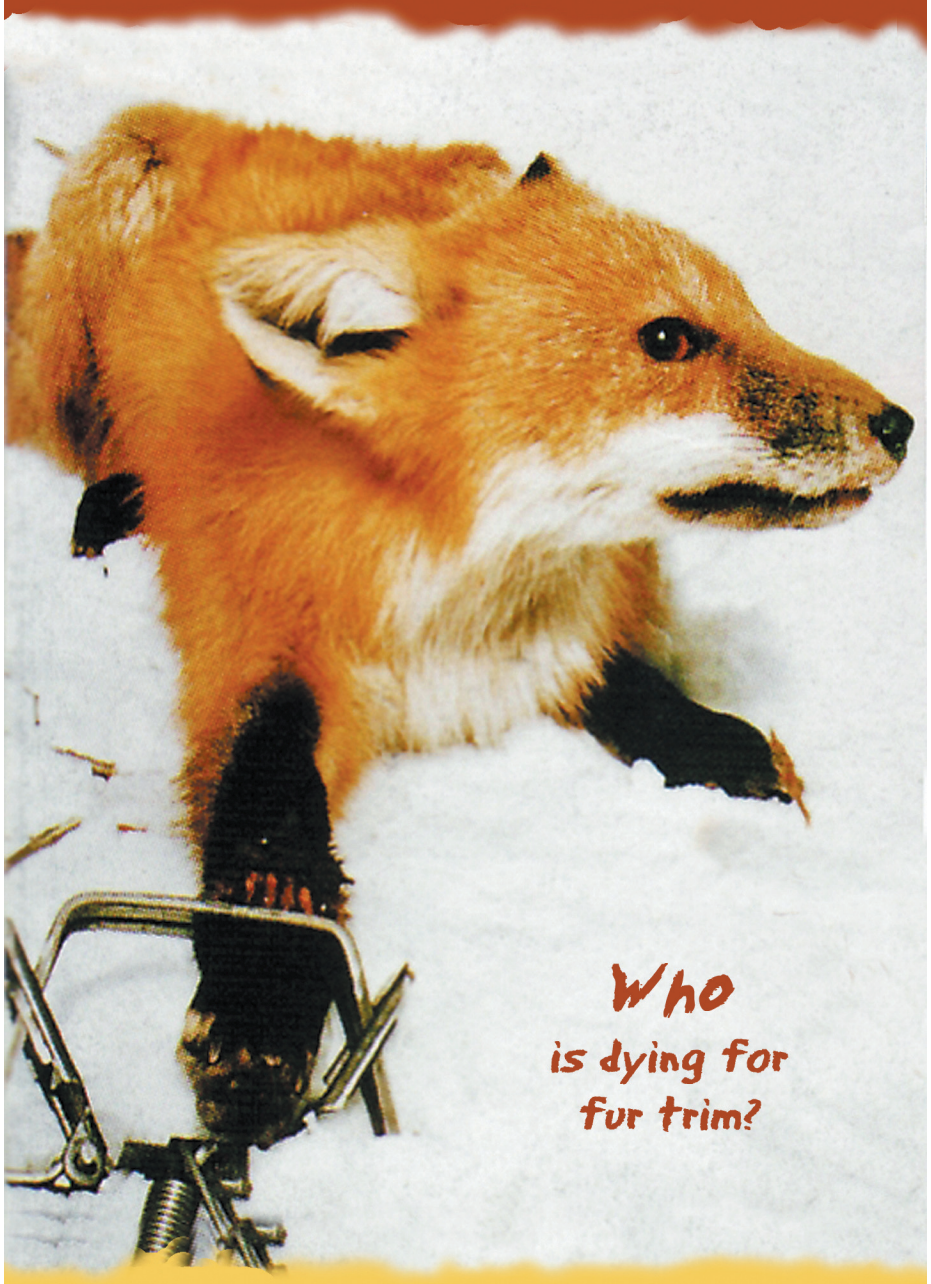
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Trial set for McKinnie
Minnesota Vikings tackle Bryant McKinnie has a trial date set for March. He faces charges stemming from his alleged involvement in a fight. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Technique the ticket

Penn, St. Pierre compare styles in Toronto Q & A session

UFC lightweight champion B.J. (The Prodigy) Penn says his technique will prevail over welterweight title-holder Georges St. Pierre's athleticism in their UFC 94 showdown Jan. 31 in Las Vegas.

THE CANADIAN PRESS/NEIL DAVIDSON

UFC welterweight champion Georges St. Pierre of Montreal, left, and lightweight champion B.J. Penn pose with their championship belts in Toronto yesterday.

St. Pierre (17-2) won a split decision the first time the two met, as welterweights at UFC 58 in March 2006. This time, GSP's 170-pound mixed martial arts title will be on the line.

"I think I'm going to come out with a better game plan than he will and I truly believe I'm a better athlete," St. Pierre told some 500 fans at a question-and-answer session yesterday at a packed Toronto cinema. "And overall skill, I think I'm better as well.

"But there is only one way to find out and that's why we're going to fight each other."

Penn (14-4) acknowledged St. Pierre's skills, saying the Canadian had shown all his tools in his most recent win over Jon Fitch. "After watching the Fitch fight, Georges is good at everything. It's safe to say that."

"But I feel honestly, when you're such a good athlete and you're so athletic, no matter how hard you try, you can only be so technical. Because you're such an athletic specimen," Penn explained further. "And I feel that's where I come in."

The event was part of the Penn-GSP publicity tour, which started Saturday with a news conference in Las Vegas and heads next to Penn's native Hawaii for a similar function Friday.

Rather than visit St. Pierre's native Montreal, where MMA is sanctioned, the UFC opted to stop in Toronto where the sport is not legalized. With 10 TV cameras capturing the event, it was a high-profile way of showing the interest in the sport in Ontario.

"Canada is a huge market for us," said White.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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No Tulsa for Ladies' tour
The LPGA Tour will not be visiting Tulsa in 2009 after it was unable to find a replacement for bankrupt title sponsor SemGroup. METRO NEWS SERVICES

James can't avoid free agency talk

While his free agency is still two years away, LeBron James won't hesitate to leave the Cleveland Cavaliers if another franchise offers the superstar a better chance to win multiple NBA titles.

"I think you do what is best for you and you do what is best for your career," James said last night when asked about his sense of loyalty to the Cavaliers before they played the Nets in New Jersey.

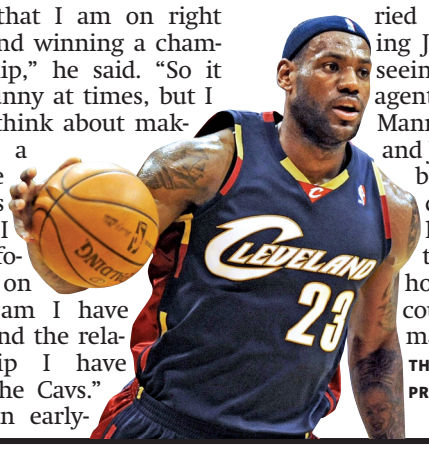
James has two years left on a five-year contract extension he signed in 2006. But with several teams, including New Jersey and the New York Knicks, attempting to clear out salary-cap space for a star-studded free agent class in 2010, there is speculation James will continue his career outside Cleveland. Before last night's game at the Izod Center, James was surrounded by about 20 members of the media and the first question dealt with his upcoming free agency.

"I am focused on the team that I am on right now and winning a championship," he said. "So it gets funny at times, but I don't think about making a change at this point. I am focusing on the team I have here and the relationship I have with the Cavs."

At an early-voter registration rally last month in Cleveland, James made his strongest comments to date about wanting to stay in his home state.

"I love you Cleveland," he said. "I love Ohio and I'm not going anywhere."

Cleveland fans are worried about losing James after seeing free agents like Manny Ramirez and Jim Thome bolt the Indians for huge contracts the home team couldn't match.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Edmonton 7 Columbus 2
Carolina 2 Montreal 1
Minnesota 2 Pittsburgh 1 (SO)
Florida 4 Tampa Bay 3 (SO)
Chicago at Phoenix
Colorado at Calgary

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Buffalo at Boston
Vancouver at N.Y. Rangers
Washington at Anaheim

CFL

GREY CUP CHAMPIONSHIP
SUNDAY, NOV. 23
AT MONTREAL
Calgary vs. Montreal

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
Orlando 103 **TORONTO** 90
Dallas 100 Charlotte 83
Indiana 113 Atlanta 96
Miami 94 Washington 87
Boston 110 New York 101
Cleveland 106 New Jersey 92
Sacramento at Memphis
Milwaukee at Denver
Chicago at L.A. Lakers
Portland at Golden State

TONIGHT'S GAMES
TORONTO at Miami
Washington at Atlanta
Cleveland at Detroit
Dallas at Houston
L.A. Clippers at Oklahoma City
Sacramento at New Orleans
Philadelphia at Minnesota
Denver at San Antonio
Milwaukee at Utah
Chicago at Portland

NFL

WEEK 12
THURSDAY'S GAME
Cincinnati at Pittsburgh

SUNDAY'S GAMES
N.Y. Jets at Tennessee
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Chicago at St. Louis
New England at Miami
San Francisco at Dallas
Buffalo at Kansas City
Houston at Cleveland
Philadelphia at Baltimore
Minnesota at Jacksonville
Oakland at Denver
Carolina at Atlanta
Washington at Seattle
N.Y. Giants at Arizona
Indianapolis at San Diego

MONDAY'S GAME
Green Bay at New Orleans

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◊ Approximate distance based on highway mileage

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- *160-Watt Am/FM/CD Audio System*

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HONDA

#Limited time lease offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Lease example based on 2009 Civic Sedan DX, model FA1529EX, available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. £3.9% lease APR for 48 months. Monthly payment is $198.01with $2,360.00 down payment or equivalent trade, $1,310 freight and PDI, first monthly payment and $0 security deposit due at lease inception. Total lease obligation is $13,406.86. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. 96,000 kilometre allowance; charge of $0.12/km for excess kilometres. Retailer may lease for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. †Limited time financing offers based on new 2009 Honda models. Finance example based on new 2009 Civic Sedan DX, model FA1529EX available through Honda Financial Services on approved credit. ‡MSRP is $16,990, plus $1,310 freight and PDI, financed at 1.9% APR equals $523.36 per month for 36 months. Cost of borrowing is $540.98 for a total obligation of $18,840.98. Taxes, license, insurance and registration are extra. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. ‡MSRP is $14,980 for a new 2009 Fit DX, model GE8729E. $1,310 freight and PDI, license, insurance, registration and taxes are extra. MSRP of Fit Sport model shown, model GE8789E is $19,280. Retailer may sell for less. Retailer order / trade may be necessary. #/£/†Offers valid from November 1st, 2008 through December 1st, 2008 at participating Honda retailers. Offers subject to change or cancellation without notice. See your Honda retailer for full details. *Civic mileage based on 2008 Fuel Consumption Guide rating published by Natural Resources Canada. Fit Mileage based on data compiled by Honda Canada. These estimates are based on the Government of Canada's approved criteria and testing methods. The actual fuel consumption of these vehicles may vary. Refer to the Government of Canada's EnerGuide Fuel Consumption Guide for more information. Based on Civic with 1.8L engine and manual transmission / Honda Fit with 1.5L engine and automatic transmission. Visit www.vehicles.gc.ca for more information.

Automotive

A METRO JOINT VENTURE WITH: carguide magazine.com

EDITOR: KUMAR SAHA, KUMAR.SAHA@METRONEWS.CA

The cutest of them all

Tiguan one good-looking CUV with features galore

Never one to be afraid of being late to the party, Volkswagen has got wise to the current market trends and introduced its own small crossover SUV. The Tiguan is the result.

Based on the same platform that underpins the Rabbit/GTI/Jetta triplets, the Tiguan is a compact five-seat station wagon on stilts that's tilted more towards the higher end of that product bracket.

Aimed squarely at the Toyota RAV4, Honda CR-V and Nissan Rogue, the Tiguan is arguably the best looking of the bunch, thanks to a combination of mini-Touareg and GTI styling cues. The Tig' is actually quite compact, looking smaller than a CR-V. Blacked out B and C pillars help sporty theme, while all models come with a small roof spoiler and front fog lights.

Inside, the styling takes a turn away from previous efforts by using circular vents, knobs and other controls rather than the squared-off look in the Passat, Jetta and Touareg. Material use is class leading as well, with good ergonomics and useful cubbies.

The Tiguan is a compact five-seat station wagon on stilts that's tilted more towards the higher end of that product bracket.

Volkswagen claims the Tiguan provides "best-in-class comfort," and that's not just a tagline. The seats are multi-adjustable and supportive, while features like a panoramic sunroof and backup camera are luxurious options.

Inside, the styling takes a turn away from previous efforts by using circular vents, knobs and other controls.

While the standard eight-speaker AM/FM/CD/MP3 player is more than acceptable, the all-new optional 300-watt/eight-speaker system from DynAudio is fantastic. It also features a touch-screen and NAV system, along with Sirius satellite radio.

Look under the hood, and you'll spot Volkswagen's corporate 2.0-litre turbocharged four-cylinder, albeit a 'second-generation' version whose tweaks will roll out through the rest of the lineup in due course.

Output remains 200 hp from 5,100 to 6,000 rpm, and 206 lb-ft of torque from 1,700 to 5,000 rpm, which puts Tiguan as the class leader for power. Fuel economy is decent as well: 11.6 L/100 km city and 8.3 L/100 km highway. That's within about a half-litre for the CR-V, although significantly behind the class-leading Rogue's 9.5/7.7.

Volkswagen claims the Tiguan provides "best-in-class comfort," and that's not just a tagline.

Transmissions are six-speeds across the board; a manual is standard on the base front-wheel drive model, while the rest get Volkswagen's smooth manu-matic.

As you'd expect from a cute-ute as this, Haldex-based 4Motion all-wheel drive is available as an option on lower models and standard on higher trims.

While not as hard-riding or sporty as a CR-V, the Volkswagen does hold its own quite well. The steering is accurate, although lacking in feel, and reactions under braking are quite predictable. The 'ute doesn't roll too much either, flowing along the twisting roads comfortably.

Safety ranks above average for the class, with ABS, stability control and tire-pressure monitoring on every model. Six airbags (front, front-side and full-length curtain) are standard as well, although Volkswagen makes you pay separately for rear-seat side airbags.

Canadians get three versions of the Tiguan, following the conventions set with the rest of the Volkswagen lineup: Trendline, Comfortline and Highline.

Trendline is the only version available with a manual transmission and/or front-wheel drive, and starts at $27,575.

Next up is the Comfortline, which at $33,975 Volkswagen expects to be its most popular model.

The loaded $38,375 Highline features 18-inch wheels, 12-way power seats with memory features, auto-dimming interior mirror, automatic bi-xenon headlights, more chrome, dual-zone climate control, leather seats, rain sensor and Sirius.

CARGUIDE STAFF

2009 VW Tiguan

Type: SUV
Price: $27,575
Engine: L4, DOHC, 2.0L, Turbo, Direct-injection
HP: 200

Highlights

- Seats five
- Good ergonomics
- Many options including manual transmission

Model makeover

New features for Phaeton

Volkswagen has started shipping the latest version of the Phaeton to European markets.

• Following its debut at the Paris Motor Show, Volkswagen has announced a number of revisions to the Phaeton luxury sedan with new features being added to the model range.

Inside, new touchscreen satellite navigation and climate control systems feature as standard as part of a redesigned centre console, alongside a refreshed instrument cluster and multi-function display.

Side Scan blind-spot monitor is now available as an option on the Phaeton for the first time, building on the already extensive list of safety equipment fitted to the vehicle. This technology, currently available on the Touareg, monitors the area next to the vehicle and acts as a lane changing aid with an audible alert and a small warning lamp in the wing mirrors to warn of the danger of collision.

Other options new to the Phaeton are a rear-view camera and the powerful 1,000-watt Dynaudio soundpack, which includes 12 speakers. Subtle design tweaks have also been made to the exterior, including a revised front grille featuring a three-dimensional Volkswagen roundel.

A range of new metallic paint finishes and three new alloy wheels, in 17-, 18- and 19-inch designs, have also been added.

The Phaeton is available with a 3.0-litre V6 TDI 240 hp with DPF (diesel particulate filter) or 6.0-litre W12 450 hp gasoline engine.

RAV4 gets mid-life makeover

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

One of the biggest automotive stories in Canada is unfolding in Woodstock, Ont.

That's the site of the gigantic, new Toyota assembly plant that is now starting to roll out its first product, the 2009 RAV4 compact SUV.

The current generation RAV4 and the Woodstock plant site were both launched in 2006. In fact, the Canadian debut of the RAV4 took place where the facility now stands.

With RAV4 North American production shifting to Ontario, a few changes have been made in what amounts to a mid-life refreshing that results in two engine/transmission and three trim level (Base, Sport, Limited) choices for six basic combinations. If you add in optional packages, there are 14 ways to order a RAV4 from Woodstock.

The biggest change is an all-new 2.5-litre inline four-cylinder engine that produces 179 hp (up 13 hp) and 172 lb/ft (up 7 lb/ft) of torque over the 2.4-litre engine in the 2008 RAV4. And better, the new engine is almost five per cent more fuel efficient at 9.7/7.2/8.6L/100 km city/highway/combined compared to 10.1/7.7/9.0L/100 km for the 2.4-litre. Standard transmission is an electronic four-speed automatic.

The 2009 Toyota RAV4 features a number of mid-cycle changes and is now being produced at Toyota's huge new assembly facility in Woodstock, Ont.

The other engine is a 3.5-litre, DOHC V6 with 269 hp and 246 lb/ft of torque delivering 11.1/7.7/9.6L/100 km city/highway/combined. The transmission here is an electronic five-speed automatic.

All RAV4s come with what Toyota calls its Active Torque Control four-wheel-drive that is actually more of a "slip and grip" all-wheel-drive system that has a coupling placed just in front of the rear differential. Based on where the sensors find traction the best, the coupling is electromagnetically activated if torque to the rear is needed. In most cases, the RAV4 will be running in a front-drive mode and that, in turn, helps conserve fuel consumption.

All 2009 RAV4s are equipped with Vehicle Stability Control (VSC) incorporating traction control. This is integrated with electric power steering for surprisingly precise steering. With all systems working, there was no sense of getting out of shape.

In adverse conditions like heavy snow or ice, a switch can turn off the VSC.

Braking is by four discs with ABS, electronic Brake Force Distribution (EBD) and Brake Assist.

Now on sale across Canada, the base 2.5-litre RAV4 carries a starting price of about $26,500 with the Sport starting at $30,165 and Limited at $31,635. Suggested starting prices for V6-equipped models are the Base at $29,100, Sport at $31,920 and Limited at $33,890.

There are some visual external changes for 2009 that start with different grille and front bumper designs to distinguish the Base and Sport models from the Limited. Fog lamps found on the Sport and Limited are not available on the Base.

While the car industry seems to be in upheaval, Toyota is reporting sales records. And at a time when slowdown is becoming the rule of the day, Toyota continues to invest and grow in Canada.

And much of that is riding on the 2009 RAV4 that's coming out of Woodstock.

2009 Toyota RAV4

Type: Compact SUV
Price: 2.5-litre: Base, $26,500; Sport, $30,165; Limited, $31,635. 3.5-litre: Base, $29,100; Sport, $31,920; Limited $33,890
Engine: 2.5-litre, four-cylinder, 16-valve DOHC; 3.5-litre DOHC V6
HP: 179-269

Highlights

- More power
- Better fuel efficiency
- More backseat space

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ROOM 203B

Time: 9:30 AM
Presenter: Ellen Roseman *The Toronto Star*
Topic: *Maximize Your Credit Card Opportunities*

Time: 11:30 AM
Presenter: Tom Reid *TransUnion*
Topic: *Achieve More: Take Charge of Your Credit*

Time: 1:00 PM
Presenter: Brandon Whitby *Manulife Securities*
Topic: *Common Sense Financial Planning in Hard Economic Times*

Time: 3:00 PM
Presenter: Patricia Lovett-Reid *TD Waterhouse*
Topic: *Seven Steps to Financial Freedom*

ROOM 203D

Time: 9:30 AM
Presenter: Perry Quinton *Ontario Securities Commission*
Topic: *The 4 Know's of Investing*

Time: 11:30 AM
Presenter: Linda Leatherdale *The Toronto Sun*
Topic: *Kids and Money*

Time: 1:00 PM
Presenter: Jérémie Ryan *Financial Consumer Agency of Canada*
Topic: *Building Financial Life Skills*

Time: 3:00 PM
Presenter: Dale Goldhawk *Host of Goldhawk Fights Back For You AM 740*
Topic: *Safeguard Against Scams*

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Excludes hybrid models

2008 Saturn VUE® XR model shown

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PURCHASE PRICE STARTING FROM **$23,340**‡

Excludes hybrid models

2008 Saturn AURA® XR model shown

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Making sense of emissions

Car companies going green despite confusing regulations

JIM ROBINSON
for Metro Canada

"You better hurry up or you'll miss the emissions presentation."

I don't know about you, but I normally would run in the opposite direction of something like that as if my hair was on fire. I learned my lesson years ago when I sat (dozed) through, no kidding, a talk on the challenges of the curing process of automotive adhesives.

But the guy telling me to hurry was Mercedes-Benz' Andrew May, of the global communications department of Mercedes-Benz Cars and someone I've learned to heed when he talks.

Leading the discussion was Bill Craven, general manager regulatory affairs, Daimler AG. He's a kind of William Bendix (for those who may remember) looking guy who is able to mix a lot of humour in with facts for a kind of Emissions for Dummies.

Right off the top, his two main points about cars and emissions is we need one set of regulations worldwide and clean gasoline with low sulphur content just like the new low sulphur diesel we now have at the pumps in Canada.

Before talking about that, it's prudent to look at who pollutes.

Looking at just CO2, transportation makes up 22 per cent of the world's greenhouse gases. Industry accounts for 31 per cent and electricity production is a full 36 per cent. With China bringing on a new fossil fuel-fired electricity plant every eight months, here is a problem on a global scale bigger than just cars.

But let's get back to motor vehicles and Craven's contention that one set of rules would drastically speed up the advent of greener cars and at less cost.

Currently the U.S. has one set of environmental regulations, Europe another and Japan yet another.

Subaru is one of the first to offer a Partial Zero Emissions Vehicle (PZEV) version of its Legacy sedan and wagon.

What this means is there are no average profiles with real life fuel consumption numbers because most testing is done in labs on rolling roads.

"The priority here is the achievement of clear guidelines. Unambiguous rules of the game are always the basic requirement necessary in order to function in a targeted and efficient manner," Craven said.

The good news is that we all know the manufacturers are working all out on greener cars and trucks, and governments have started to listen seriously to the carmakers as well as the public.

One approach is the ZEV mandate in California. In order to sell cars in that state, it obliges manufacturers to offer zero local-emissions vehicles making up 16 per cent of all the cars in their fleet by 2009.

ZEVs are defined as vehicles that have no vehicle exhaust emissions whatsoever, such as battery and fuel cell vehicles.

Manufacturers may opt to offset a certain proportion of the ZEV quota.

This can be done through so-called Partial Zero Emissions Vehicles (PZEV), which have to fulfill the SULEV standards and the so-called zero-evaporation regulations.

At the same time, a proportion of the ZEV quota may be offset through Advanced Technology PZEV vehicles. These are PZEV vehicles that are equipped with at least certain technology features. These include hybrid, natural gas or bivalent hydrogen combustion engines.

Does that solve the problem?

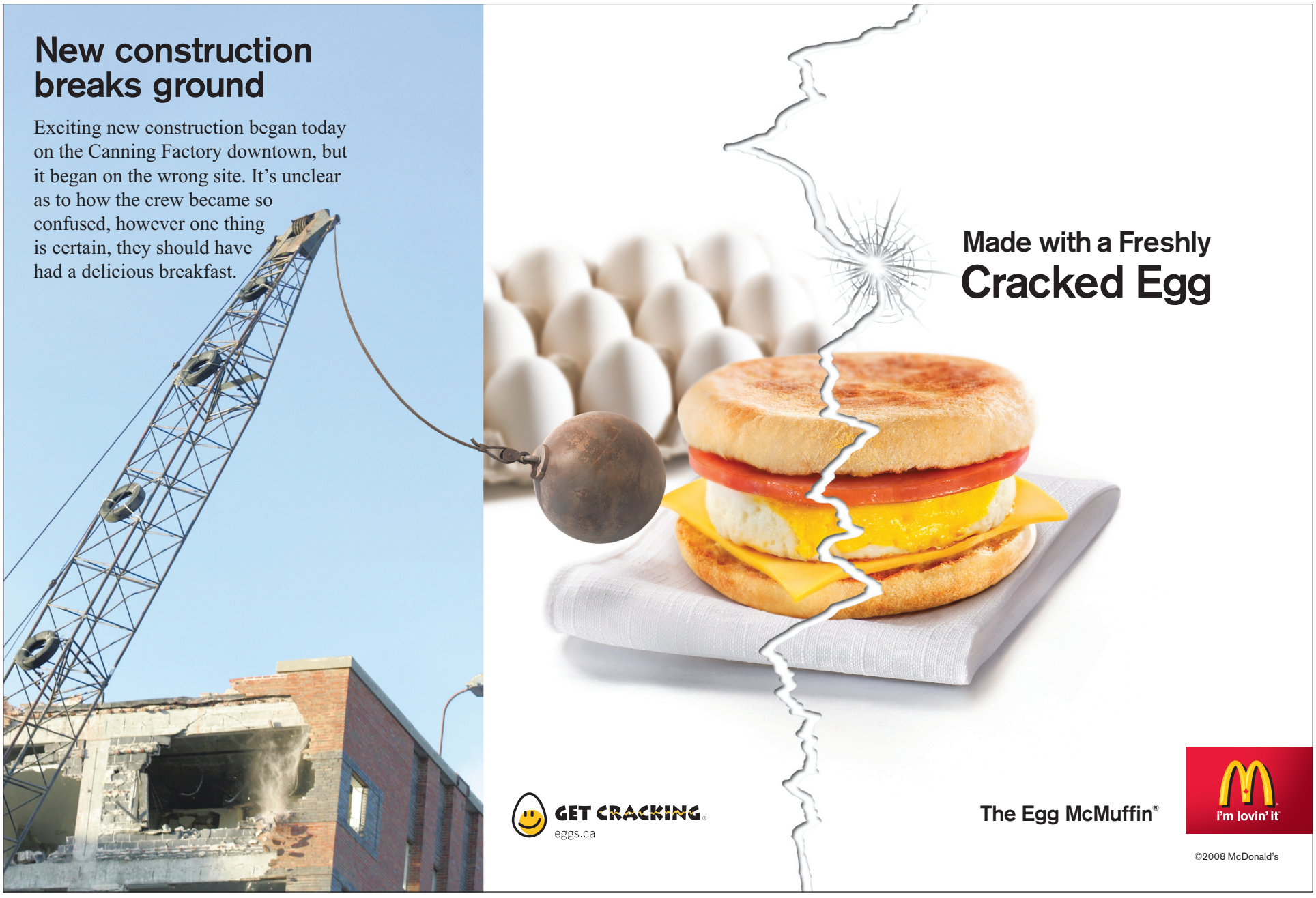
The answer is no but at least those who make the cars and those who legislate them are talking about making it a greener world for you and me.

Day to raise awareness on crash victims

SAFETY The first ever National Day of Remembrance for Road Victims will be observed today, with an eye towards raising awareness of road safety and promote ways to prevent road traffic injury and death on our roads, particularly those resulting from impaired driving.

The laws relating to impaired driving have been improved, and through the '70s and '80s there was significant reductions in alcohol-involved fatalities. However, since that time, the reductions have levelled off at unacceptably high levels. Too many Canadians are still being killed and seriously injured by alcohol involved drivers, and the cost to families and the healthcare system is a staggering 10 billion dollars alone for fatal collisions. More information is available on the Transport Canada website at www.tc.gc.ca/hookedonroadsafety/awareness.htm.

NEWS CANADA



Scottish celebrations
With a year-long celebration dubbed Homecoming Scotland 2009 approaching, there are more festivities than usual planned for St. Andrew's Day, Scotland's national day, on Nov. 30. Visit *scotland.org/standrews* for more information. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Travel

Text 'check-in'

A new remote service from British Airways will let passengers check in over the phone. Whether soaking up the last rays of sun on a tropical beach, in the back of a taxi or still at the hotel, travellers will be able to log on to *ba2go.com*, then enter a booking reference and surname and sign up for a favourite seat. METRO WORLD NEWS

TRAVELDESK@METRONEWS.CA

An appetite for the Big Apple

Finding healthy places to eat is easy in this urban jungle

ANNE DIMON
for Metro Canada

New York City's gentrified Meatpacking District seems an unlikely place to find a "go-to" restaurant specializing in fish, seafood and veggies, but that's pretty much the culinary focus of Fig & Olive.

Here, in this trendy, industrially chic neighbourhood, chef Pascal Lorange has the wants of the health-conscious diner covered. At Fig & Olive, *figandolive.com*, the Mediterranean-inspired menu includes things like Zucchini Carpaccio, Grilled Bell Peppers with Herbes de Provence, Cote d'Azure Bouillabaisse and Trio de la Mer.

All dishes are prepared with olive oil instead of butter and cooked to maintain maximum nutrients. So forget the fried and deep-fried, and expect grilling, poaching, baking and sautéing.

While healthy eating may mean different things to different people, the buzzwords today are farm-fresh, seasonal, naturally-raised, artisanal and low fat, and chefs at an increasing number of Big Apple restaurants (in all price ranges) are paying heed. Here are five other restaurants offering healthy food choices in New York City:

THE PUMP ENERGY FOOD

The Pump Energy Food is billed as New York City's "physical fitness restaurant."

Wellness travel

- For more information on spa and wellness travel, visit *traveltowellness.com*.

Zen Palate: In Hell's Kitchen, Zen Palate has been dishing out to vegetarians since 1991. Zagat calls it "a meatless nirvana." Restaurant manger Chris Chang says his "Asian vegetarian fusion" cuisine uses more than 60 different plants and flowers from culinary cultures around the world. They use a lot of meat substitution such as soy protein, and the Zen Burger is the vegetarian version of the Big Mac.

The Pump Energy Food: Billed as the "physical fitness restaurant," The Pump Energy Food, *thepumpenergyfood.com*, has five outlets in various parts of the city. The one on the West Side is tiny and basic and if you didn't know it was there, you could walk right by. But its meals are wholesome, tasty, and nicely prepared, and prices won't take a chunk out of the wallet. Look for sandwiches on whole wheat bread, healthy shakes, vegetarian chili, grilled chicken over brown rice or steamed greens, plus lots of other high-protein foods. Low-fat, low sodium is also key. They don't cook with butter, cream or mayo, and nothing is fried.

Scarlatto Italian Restaurant: Located in the heart of the Theatre District, the elegant and intimate Scarlatto offers an impressive variety of fish dishes including salmon, halibut, tuna, red snapper and sea bass prepared with healthier cooking techniques, including baking, searing, grilling and poaching. There are also about half-a-dozen different salads. Expect a rush from the pre-theatre crowd.

Jamba Juice: For a quick energy boost drop into any one of the city's 10 Jamba Juice locations, *jambajuice.com*. The extensive menu of "fast food" items includes freshly squeezed juices, protein shakes, yogurt and fruit blends, and whole wheat pockets stuffed with nutritious fixings. In the busy Times Square location you can sit at one of a few tables and watch the crowds file by as you nibble on Omega 3 Cookies.

Dove Tail: The year-old Dove Tail, *dovetailnyc.com*, with its innovative menu and fabulous food is already a hit in the Upper West Side neighbourhood. Chef John Fraser's travels throughout the French and Spanish countryside inspired the "sourcing locally" philosophy he embraces.

Save room for the Olive Oil Brownie — low in fat, made with anti-oxidant-rich dark chocolate and surprisingly yummy.

Anne Dimon is a spa and wellness travel writer. Visit traveltowellness.com.

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Poetry in motion

B.C. poet Wendy Morton, previously a "poet of the skies" for WestJet — she occasionally wrote rhymes for the airline's passengers — will have one of her poems published on a bottle of Cabernet Merlot by Southbrook Vineyards in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ont., as part of the winery's Poetica series. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Gateway to an epic landscape

The tiny town of Kununurra was home to the cast and crew of Australia

MEGAN ANDERSON
for Metro Canada

There's no cinema in Kununurra, a pin prick on the map in Western Australia's remote north west. Celluloid interludes in the sunbaked town are strictly the domain of the drive-in movie theatre. The only red carpet is the region's famous pindan dust.

MEGAN ANDERSON PHOTOS

Left, the boab tree is an iconic part of Western Australia's Kimberley region. Right, an aerial view of El Questro Station, a million-acre cattle station that was the location for the film's dramatic cattle mustering scenes.

But the celebrity count was high during the filming of Baz Luhrmann's Australia for five months last year. Locals grew accustomed to seeing Hugh Jackman and wife Deborah-Lee Furness at the supermarket, and Keith Urban at the gym. Urban and wife Nicole Kidman shed their bodyguards to wander the streets, lining up for coffee at the town's only breaky joint — the Boab Bookstore and Café — like everyone else.

While the action took place largely across Western Australia's vast east Kimberley region — all 121,189 square kilometres of it — sleeping and down time was spent in Kununurra, population 7,775, the regional hub gazetted just 60-odd years ago in the wake of the Ord River irrigation scheme.

So while the melons and mangoes ripened for another year on the fertile flats, several of Kununurra's well-heeled residents vacated their riverfront properties to supply homes away from home for Australia's A-List cast and crew.

The main drag, Konkerberry Street, got a new Rodeo Drive ring to it, as its unassuming shopfronts became the favoured haunts for the Kidman-Urban-Jackman ilk seeking mementos of the place.

Kununurra

- Kununurra is 3,214 kilometres from Perth, and 800 kilometres from Darwin. There are daily flights from both centres flying SkyWest airlines, *skywest.com.au*, and Air North, *airnorth.com.au*. Also visit *kununurratourism.com*.

It might look like a small aircraft hangar from the footpath, for example, but Kimberley Fine Diamonds stocks some of the world's rarest and most dizzyingly expensive diamonds from the nearby Argyle Diamond mine, including the coveted pink diamond.

Proprietor Frauke Bolten-Boshammer, whose own décolletage and fingers have a distinctly rosy tint, is too discreet to say what her famous clients bought (rumour has it that Kidman had a diamond ring designed, but failed to collect it — stay tuned, EBay), but visits were long and numerous.

MEGAN ANDERSON PHOTO

An evening view of the Ord River near Kununurra.

Bolten-Boshammer vacated her own Riverfarm Road house for director Baz Luhrmann, who adopted it as his creative refuge. While the salt water crocodiles lurked a decorous distance from the back yard, he viewed the daily rushes each night.

Come shoot's end, Bolten-Boshammer gifted her famous tenant a diamond encrusted 18-carat gold pendant fashioned into the shape of a boab tree. Testament to the optimism radiating from the locals, she intended it as a good luck charm for the Oscars.

Luhrmann's parting gift to the town was a real boab tree, planted in the Celebrity Tree Park where around 150 notables are immortalized in bark and plaque on the banks of Lake Kununurra.

He told townsfolk that boabs — gnarly, bulbous-trunked trees which can

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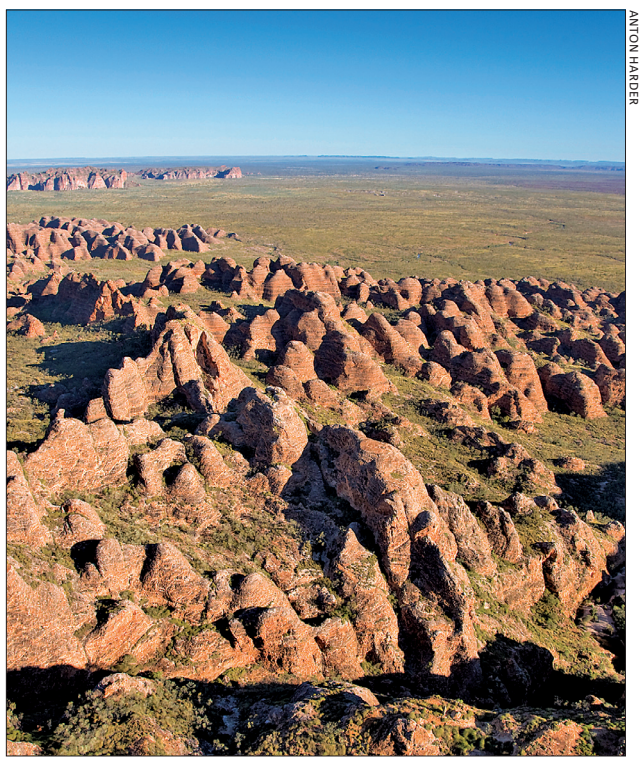
Survey says...
A new Zagat guide, Top U.S. Hotels, Resorts & Spas 2009, covers 1,001 properties and chains and is based on input from some 10,000 travellers. Highest-rated hotels were the Dallas-Ft. Worth Ritz-Carlton and the Peninsula in Chicago, for hotels with 100 or more rooms. METRO NEWS SERVICES

JAMES FISHER/TWENTIETH CENTURY FOX

Hugh Jackman and Nicole Kidman in a scene from the upcoming film Australia.


ANTON HARDER

A bird's-eye view of the Purnululu National Park in Western Australia. This park was formerly known as the Bungle Bungles.

Continued from page 32 »

live for over a thousand years — have a spirituality that spoke to him. The trees, endemic to Western Australia's Kimberley region, became central to the film's visual idiom.

Luhrmann's intention to make Australia a calling card of sorts — a filmic acknowledgement of an extraordinary locale — will doubtless inspire a flurry of pilgrimages to Kununurra and the wider region whose assets have hitherto lurked under a very remote bushel.

Along the sleepy 60-kilometre stretch of the impressive Ord River, for instance, finding a deserted fishing spot with an embarrassment of silver cobbler and exotic bird life is a cinch.

The man-made Lake Argyle is so vast — more than 100 square kilometres — it contains its own archipelago and can generate waves up to two metres high.

It's almost unimaginable that the stripey, dome shaped Bungle Bungle range, now considered among the world's most significant geographical landforms, was barely known about by white inhabitants until the 1980s.

Now, scenic flights there pass nonchalantly over the Jurassic terrain speckled with diamonds. And where else in the world can you water ski alongside timid, freshwater crocodiles?

Kununurra artist and gallery owner Nadeen Lovell knows the beauty well. And the extent to which the film and the town at its nerve centre will remain inextricably linked.

A regular with her easel at House Roof Hill, a much-painted scene close to where the film's fictional homestead was built at Carlton Hill Station, she was privy to a conversation with set designers about the vegetable patch they were establishing there to give the homestead authenticity.

Lamenting their failure to make the vegetables grow fast enough, Lovell volunteered produce from her own garden to help things along.

The next morning at 5 a.m., crew arrived at her house with a truck and a shovel. They left with a load of fully grown greens destined for a film set more than 100 kilometres away.

Now, like many residents of the Kimberley, Lovell is awaiting the film with bated breath. Not just to see local landmarks writ large on the big screen, or to ogle.

Kidman and Jackman inhabiting the distinctive Kimberley landscape. She can't wait to see the end of it. The closing credits in particular. Will "Lettuce by adeen" be the town's final crowning glory?

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A big Cowichan Band BBQ

Smoked seal meat and elk served with sweet potato pie are among aboriginal foods served up to visitors by B.C.'s First Nations.

TODD CURRAN

Traditional barbecued salmon is on offer at the Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre, which is run by the Cowichan Band and located in Duncan, on the east coast of Vancouver Island.

A newly renovated restaurant at Talking Rock Resort, east of Kamloops, features traditional native cuisine including venison, cedar plank salmon steak and buffalo ragout, says the Aboriginal Tourism Association of British Columbia.

Dishes at the resort are made with fresh produce and meats from local farmers and growers, says the Little Shuswap Indian Band. The association's website (aboriginalbc.com/trellis/foodandwineindex) highlights culinary offerings across the province.

They range from seal meat and oolichan oil in northern B.C. to smoked salmon on the coast. Some restaurants serve crisp kelp on steamed rice with oolichan oil (oolichan is a small fish), wind-dried salmon and wapiti (elk).

At the Culture Shock Gallery in Alert Bay, on Cormorant Island just off the northern tip of Vancouver Island, a two-hour barbecue includes wild sockeye salmon prepared over an open fire.

The Quw'utsun' Cultural and Conference Centre in Duncan, on the east coast of Vancouver Island, also offers authentic native cuisine, including salmon barbecues. The centre is owned and operated by the Cowichan Band.

Nk'Mip Cellars, overlooking Osoyoos Lake in the Okanagan Valley, is billed as North America's first aboriginal owned and operated winery. Its wines, made from grapes from the Osoyoos Indian Band's own vineyard, include Chardonnay, Pinot Blanc, Pinot Noir, Merlot and Riesling. The winery offers tours and tastings.

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A historic army
An exhibition of the famed clay statues of Chinese warriors has opened in Atlanta. "The First Emperor: China's Terracotta Army" opened at the High Museum of Art and runs through April 19. Details at high.org. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Five little ski towns with charm aplenty

Looking for a ski getaway with authentic local charm? The December issue of Travel + Leisure magazines recommends five ski towns that "hold true to their local roots." They are:

• Crested Butte, Colo., in the Elk Mountains, where you'll find steep, rugged terrain and Victorian houses but no chain restaurants.

• Waitsfield and Warren, Vt., in the Mad River Valley, where artists and counterculture-types mingle with skiers visiting the old-school Mad River Glen ski resort and the more polished Sugarbush resort nearby.

• Bend, Ore., in the Cascades, known for blue skies and sunshine; the treeless, conical summit of Mount Bachelor, and great restaurants.

• Victor, Driggs and Tetonia, Idaho, where you can find a sophisticated meal near "stunning mountains and miles and miles of wilderness," including the Grand Teton National Park and nearby Grand Targhee Resort.

• Truckee, Calif., in the Lake Tahoe region, where accommodations range from the 100-year-old Truckee Hotel to the Cedar House Sport Hotel, a sleek eco-lodge. Easy access to three major ski resorts: Squaw Valley, Alpine Meadows, and Northstar Tahoe.

For the full article and a slideshow, visit *travelandleisure.com*.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOE McDANIEL

A view of Crested Butte, where you won't find chain restaurants.

Universal Orlando kicking off month-long holiday celebration

ORLANDO, FLA. Universal Orlando is getting ready to kick off its annual holiday celebration with a month of parades, shows and other special events running Dec. 6 - Jan. 1.

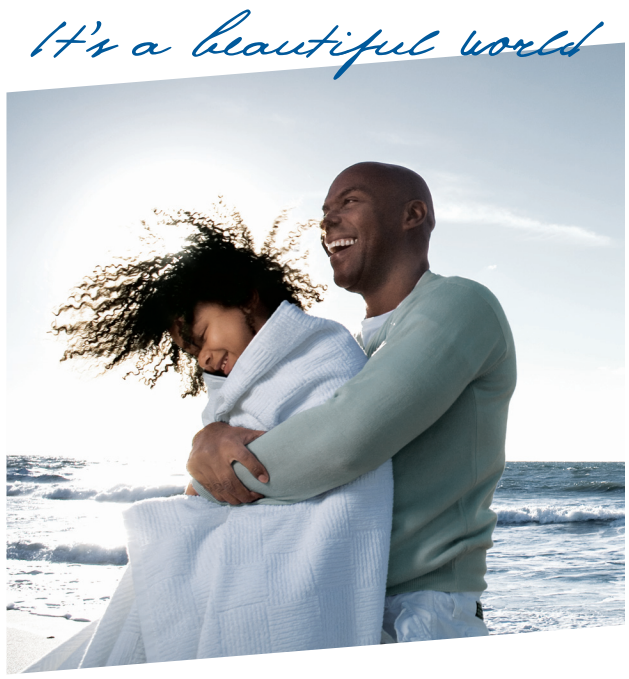
At Islands of Adventure, the Grinch and the Whos from Who-ville perform in the park's holiday "Grinchmas" show, based on the beloved Dr. Seuss book, How the Grinch Stole Christmas! At Universal Studios in Orlando, the Macy's Holiday Parade steps off at dusk daily during the holiday period with balloons, floats and performances by marching bands from around the country.

The musical group Mannheim Steamroller will perform two live concerts at Universal Studios on Dec. 6, including music from the group's new Christmasville album.

Universal Studios also offers a nightly Christmas tree lighting, while Universal's three onsite hotels have carollers, movie showings and holiday menus.

The park has a variety of deals during the Dec. 6-Jan. 1 period, including a two-park unlimited admission ticket, good for seven consecutive days for $94.99 US. Adults who buys one of these tickets online and stays at least four nights in a Universal partner hotel can get another two-park unlimited admission ticket free for a child age 3-9, through Dec. 31. Details at UniversalOrlando.com.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



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A big slice of home

Slices of Cronenberg and Quebec are being served at a Canadian-themed Berlin pizzeria

Canada has its maple syrup and back bacon and Germany has its sauerkraut and bratwurst. But neither country is particularly known for its pizza.

Yet a popular pizzeria in the south Berlin district of Kreuzberg prides itself on its "Canadian-style" pies.

The pizzas at the Ron Telesky eatery are thin-crust, often with a bizarre mix of toppings. The Cronenberg Crash, for instance — named after the Canadian filmmaker and his 1996 film starring Holly Hunter and James Spader — is a mix of mango, peanuts, cheddar and tandoori tofu. The Flaming Quebec is a medley of creme fraiche sauce, bacon and serrano ham.

Co-owner Ole Schnack, 32, said that while the restaurant has been around for over a year, the idea behind it was first cooked up after the joint's other owner, Sebastian Hunold, 33, lived in Peterborough, Ont., as an exchange student in the early '90s.

While there, Hunold took up an after-school job at a pizza shop. There he noticed that they did things differently.

The pizzas weren't American-style items with thick dough and lots of cheese. They also weren't Italian-style, known for simple and traditional ingredients.

"When he came back from Canada, Sebastian told me about this gourmet pizza we don't have here in Europe, especially not Berlin," said Schnack. "Coming out of the advertising field, I realized there was a product that could have success if it's set up right."

Most of the recipes used at Ron Telesky were lifted from pizza shops Hunold came across during his time in Canada. Customers are encouraged to add free toppings provided at the counter: Black olives, arugula and the iconic all-Canadian condiment, maple syrup.

The concept of Canadian pizza is proving to be popular amongst Berliners. The city magazine Der Tip named it the third best place to eat lunch in Berlin. The restaurant attracts a mix of locals, people who work in the area and families. The majority of customers are German but there is the occasional Canuck who gets excited by the bottled Moosehead and Molson Canadian beer available. (Employees at the Canadian Embassy are also frequent customers, despite being about a 30-minute walk away.)

SHANNON MENDES/THE CANADIAN PRESS
Patrons chat at a table in Berlin's Canadian-style pizza restaurant, Ron Telesky.

Schnack makes a point of hiring expats from Canada. It helps if they speak German, but that isn't necessary.

"We like to talk English with our employees or French," he said. "We had a couple of Americans coming in and asking for a job and we had to tell them we rather take Canadians."

Wendy Bateman, originally of Nanaimo, B.C., worked at the pizzeria in her six months spent in Berlin. She appreciates that there's a place in Berlin that Canadians can identify with.

"I think they nailed it as a Canadian place, but I don't think the pizza has anything to do with being Canadian," she said. "For me, being a Canadian, pizza is just pizza."

The decor at the casual, below street-level restaurant is unmistakably Canadiana. Vintage wallpaper displays a Rockies scene, while a row of skis is used for coat racks.

The intimate setting seats about 15, with several tables outside. While most customers opt to stay and eat, the restaurant has a bicycle delivery service for the neighbourhood.

A large moose head is displayed prominently. The restaurant is named after a Winnipeg taxidermist who crafted the eatery's centrepiece — a plaque bearing his name is mounted under the moose. (The real Telesky is now deceased.)

Schnack said the joint is inspired by the pizzas they create, which he calls "trashy, glamorous and wholesome."

"You combine unrelated things and you get the unexpected," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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U.S. Thanksgiving travel to decline

AAA says travel over the U.S. Thanksgiving holiday will drop for the first time in six years due to the economic slowdown and fewer flights, though some travellers will get help from the decline in gasoline prices. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Digging up history in Harran

TheTravelJunkie
Julia Dimon
juliadimon.com

JULIA DIMON/FOR METRO CANADA

The grand mosque of Harran is the oldest mosque built in Southeastern Anatolia, a region in the eastern half of Turkey.

Eyelashes caked with dust, I make my way through the storm like a lost desert dweller separated from her own archeological dig.

In Harran, a tiny town 50 km away from Urfa in southeastern Turkey, sand storms are as common as kebabs. Blowing in from neighbouring Syria, this thin blanket of dust adds to the mystery of Harran, famous for its historic and religious significance.

Existing as early as 2000 BC, Harran is said to be "one of the oldest continuously inhabited spots on earth." According to the Old Testament, Abraham lived here for a time and his father died here. They call Harran one of the birthplaces of the three monotheistic religions: Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Today, a visit to Harran means touring the relics of Islamic antiquity. The ruins of the Grand Mosque, a castle and traditional beehive houses can all be seen here.

According to a rusty sign at the site, the grand mosque of Harran is the oldest mosque built in Anatolia and is a good example of Islamic architecture.

While it must have been highly impressive back then, time and war haven't been kind to this former mosque and learning institution. Walking around the ruins, straining to see through the snarling sand storm, I have to wonder: Thousands of years from now, will our own cities be left to crumble, buried under the dust of time for future tourists to find?

From the ruins of the Grand Mosque, I walk a few minutes to find Harran's famous beehives houses, traditionally constructed in conical, ant hill-esque shapes.

Dating back some 200 years, the houses were built with bricks gathered from the ruins of historical Harran. They accommodate the climate, providing habitants with "cool" in the summer and warmth in the winter.

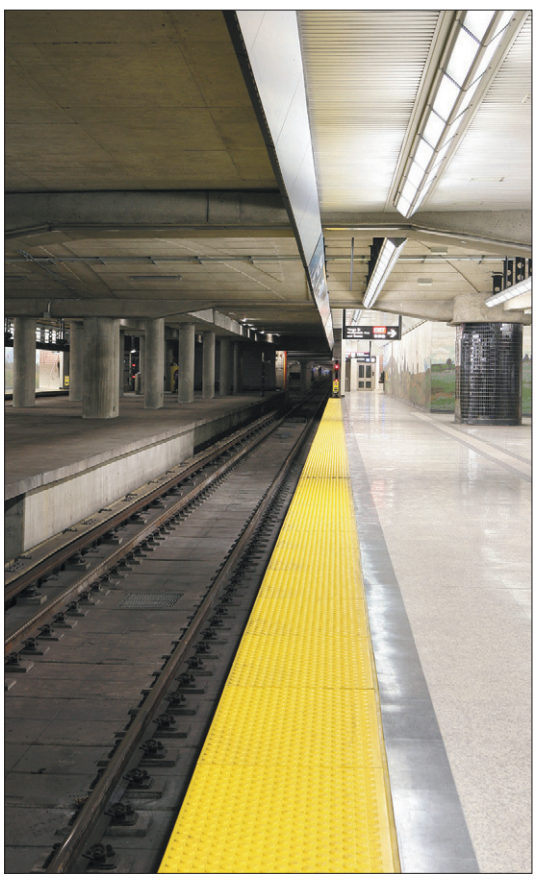
Slurping on strong Turkish coffee, I catch up with a rowdy tour group of 50-plus Israelis. Their group has come to this holy land to learn about their biblical beginnings.

Ruti Millar, a tour guide that comes to this region five times a year, tells me "this area is special and exciting because it's the genesis of our history."

While Israelis aren't permitted to travel to Syria, Iraq or Iran, Turkey is quite welcoming. "The Turkish people are wonderful and very warm," she continues. "We've come here to meet them, see the sights and learn about different cultures."

This is what drew me to the region of Southeastern Anatolia. It was a chance to see a side of Turkey beyond the tourist traps of cosmopolitan Istanbul and the country's Mediterranean seaside resorts. A visit here delves into the ancient histories of the Middle East… under the veil of a good Syrian sandstorm.

Julia Dimon is co-host of Word Travels, airing on OLN; juliadimon.com.



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Workology

CENTENNIAL COLLEGE Centennial College

EDITOR: DOUGLAS DUNLOP, DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

Time to prep for the worst

Management should manage fear-free

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

Anxious times can create anxious employees, but good management can alleviate some of that anxiety.

Productivity plummets when workers spend more time each day worrying about their jobs than doing them, which is why employers need to reassure their workers with open and constructive leadership.

Sue Philchuk, vice-president and partner at Canadian an disability management consulting firm Banyan Work Health Solutions, suggests the most important thing for employers to do during tougher times is to demystify what's happening and let employees be a part of the solution.

"Be really honest and transparent with (your workers) about what's going on and let them know what the game plan is and how they can contribute," Philchuk said.

Though Philchuk isn't suggesting business owners should reveal all the inner workings of the business to employees, she says giving away as much information as possible will show trust and respect. Rather than have employees speculate about what's happening and expecting the worst, giving them the facts can help to keep their fears at bay.

"I think you need to reveal what's possible to reveal, because people are thinking about it anyway. The more control people have over their circumstances, the more achievable those goals are and the less stress there's going to be in the workplace," Philchuk said.

"The more control people have ... the less stress there's going to be."
Sue Philchuk

As for supporting workers individually, Philchuk suggests consistent feedback can clarify employees' job duties and help keep them on track to reach their goals.

"Make sure employees know exactly what their job duties are and that you're providing them with clear, concise and constructive feedback on how they're doing," Philchuk said.

Of course, giving feedback includes recognizing a job well done, something Philchuk says many leaders forget. A few words of encouragement on a regular basis and thanks can go a long way to keeping workers motivated.

"Don't just give people a pat on the back at their performance evaluation. Give recognition where recognition is due throughout the working day and make it genuine — that really keeps people going," Philchuk said.

On the other side of the coin, as anxiety builds up, stress can start to manifest itself physically in ways such as headaches, heart issues or depression.

"If you see a change in someone who used to be productive, but now is not, investigate," Philchuk said.

Losing your job may be a real possibility

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

With growing fears of a recession in Canada, smart workers know to hope for the best, but prepare for the worst.

Jordin Amin, an American certified public accountant (CPA), suggests the first thing people should do in a turbulent time is to start preparing their emergency fund — a collection of money they have saved for the sole purpose of keeping themselves afloat should they suddenly lose their income. While credit can tide you over in the short-term, its long-term effects, like compounded interest, can be debilitating financially and accessing money from things like savings bonds or RRSPs in a pinch can carry its own set of penalties, fees and other problems.

"Every dollar you can save is a good dollar to have when you need it and it's much easier to use your own money instead of someone else's," Amin said.

As for credit, securing sources of it before the bad times hit is crucial since credit becomes very difficult to secure when you have no income.

The key to saving your own money, Amin says, is to come to terms with the fact that a certain amount of money needs to be put away every month, to be used only in times of a financial emergency. One way to ensure you stick to your saving plan is to have your employer split a portion of your paycheque into a separate direct deposit account works. Or you could have your bank do an automatic transfer of a particular amount of money from your main account into your emergency fund account every month or so. The important thing, according to Amin, is to make the act of saving your money as effortless as possible. Don't worry about siphoning away that little piece of income — Amin says most people hardly miss it once they get used to the act of saving.

"Anything that doesn't require direct action is good. Typically people tend to adapt to what they have and after a couple of cycles you don't notice it," he said.

If you do lose your job, reassess your finances right away so you can adjust appropriately.

"Create a new budget and figure out where you are spending money so you can understand where your money is and get in control of your spending," Amin said.

Thinking ahead

- Conventional thinking used to recommend three to six months of saved-up living expenses to cover things like mortgage and loan payments, food and utility payments. Nowadays though, Jordin Amin (CPA) suggests six to 12 months is a more realistic number to aim for.

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University of Calgary at Qatar campus employee sues university
An employee at the University of Calgary's Qatar campus, is suing the school for what she claims was a "toxic" work environment. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Criticizing your boss a bad idea

WorkplaceLaw

Daniel Lublin
dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com

Still upset following an angry confrontation with her boss, Maria Van Der Meij wasn't about to go quietly. Penning a letter to her employer's board of directors, Van Der Meij criticized her boss and bemoaned the fact that she could no longer perform in her role. However, instead of simply authoring a letter of complaint, ultimately she had authored her own legal misfortune.

For nine years, Van Der Meij laboured as a settlement co-ordinator and supervisor at the Victoria Immigrant & Refugee Centre Society in Victoria, B.C. Burdened by a heavy caseload and plagued with funding shortfalls, the Centre's employees were stressed and overwhelmed, and tensions often ran high.

When the errors of one of her staff mounted, Van Der Meij met with the Centre's executive director, Carlos Gaete, to deal with the problem, but the two clashed about the appropriate discipline.

Believing that Gaete was acting improperly during the meeting and that the stress had finally taken a toll on her health, Van Der Meij left the office, cancelled her appointments and went to see her doctor.

Days later, while off work on sick leave, Van Der Meij wrote to the Centre's board of directors, angrily accusing Gaete of lacking leadership and ethical standards. She claimed Gaete was unappreciative and cowardly, and that her job had therefore become impossible to perform.

Instead of dealing with the merits of her grievances, the board swiftly responded by accepting what it claimed was Van Der Meij's resignation. It argued that if she was unable to continue on in her role, she had effectively resigned from her employment. But Van Der Meij had not intended to resign, so they next met in court.

Be careful what you say about your boss to his or her superiors, it may come back to haunt you.

At trial, the Centre argued that if Van Der Meij had not resigned, then at the least, her letter to the board was wildly improper, and as a result, she had jeopardized her own continued employment. The Centre had hit upon a successful argument in this case.

Justice Janet Bruce, who wrote the decision, rejected the Centre's argument that Van Der Meij had resigned based on the letter she wrote to the board. Without clear evidence of a resignation, courts should be reluctant to infer that an employee had intended to resign, she wrote. However, the Centre was correct in concluding that by spitefully criticizing her boss, Van Der Meij had made the employment relationship impossible to continue.

In those circumstances, the Centre was at liberty to terminate her without further obligation.

While the court accepted that employees are generally "entitled to criticize superiors without fear of immediate dismissal," when such criticism goes over the edge, an employer is not required to tolerate it. Here, while Van Der Meij's complaints may have been justified, her approach to voicing them was fatal to her job.

Had she attempted to resolve the issue with Gaete without first writing to the board, the board would have been paying her settlement cheques now, rather than cashing them.

Overtly criticizing your boss can be perilous to your job. While criticism may be reasonably justified or even provoked, employees won't find favour from the courts where the tone or manner of the criticism becomes disrespectful or otherwise incompatible with continued employment.

Daniel A. Lublin is an employment lawyer focusing on the law of dismissal; dan@toronto-employmentlawyer.com.

Online enrolment boom in the U.S.
According to a new survey from the Sloan Consortium, nearly four-million U.S. college students enrolled in at least one online course in the fall of 2007, a 13-per-cent jump from the previous year. **METRO NEWS SERVICES**

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Centennial skills shot Mills to top

Not everyone among Canada's 450,000 federal civil servants gets a mention in the The Hill Times, the "insider" newspaper chronicling the activities of the movers and shakers on Parliament Hill.

Public relations practitioner Amy Mills does.

She was drawn into the political arena after meeting former prime minister Joe Clark through a recommendation from the vice-president of Argyle Rowland, a Toronto public relations firm where she was assigned to work as part of her college program's field placement.

Her ability to think on her feet and write clear, concise communiqués made her a natural asset for any political party.

After graduating from Centennial College's Corporate Communications and Public Relations program in 2002, Mills was recruited to work for the old Progressive Conservative Party, where she learned how to run a local election campaign and persevered, earning a political staff position in Ottawa.

"Everything I learned at Centennial College applied to my career ... much more so than any other education I received previously," she says.

She eventually worked with Stephen Harper in his role as Leader of the Official Opposition and proved her mettle in the 2004, 2006 and 2008 national elections.

Between campaigns, Mills most recently worked as a policy advisor to the Minister for International Cooperation at CIDA, the Canadian International Development Agency, handling the Afghanistan file.

It's assignments such as this that have brought equity to Mills' name on the Hill, ensuring a bright future for this talented communicator. Surprisingly perhaps, Mills has not seen the need to augment her Centennial diploma with a university degree.

CIDA policy advisor and Centennial College graduate Amy Mills, left, visits a teacher training centre in Kabul, Afghanistan, last April as part of her work for the Canadian International Development Agency.

"My presentations skills course taught me how to present myself to very important people," she recalls. "Early on in my career, the conflict management course came in handy as I had to deal with irate citizens and with the community overall."

Mills found the curriculum and teaching at Centennial to be very advanced and relevant for professional practitioners in the field, more so than anything she had learned in a communications and media foundations program at another college.

After the Sept. 7 federal election call, Mills took a leave of absence from her federal government position to work on the Conservative's re-election campaign, huddling with a group of advisors, planning strategy and monitoring media reports as the team orchestrated its national campaign.

Mills has not been working on Parliament Hill for long, but already her Gatineau office wall displays a number of awards of recognition.

She received a Certificate of Appreciation for her work on Jay Hill's 2006 successful election campaign in the Prince George-Peace River riding, and earned a plaque for her participation in the Battle of Vimy Ridge commemoration in France. Mills credits her graduate program at Centennial for giving her skills to work effectively on Parliament Hill.

"I would recommend the program I took for students who know specifically what they want to do."

For details about Centennial's Corporate Communications and Public Relations program, visit: centennialcollege.ca/thecentre/corporate. **–MARK TOLJAGIC**

McGill exams affected by provincial election

McGill University is making adjustments to its fall term exam schedule due to the Quebec provincial election on Dec. 8. Under Quebec law, student electors must be released from school on election day, which is taking place on the busiest day of the exam period. METRO NEWS SERVICES

After duty, job search becomes a battle

Veterans returning from work overseas after active duty may now be facing a different battle: finding a job.

Nearly one in five U.S. veterans (17 per cent) looking for a job said it took more than six months to secure one after leaving active duty; nearly one in 10 said it took one year or more.

This is according to a CareerBuilder.com survey conducted among more than 750 U.S. veterans.

One in five veterans believe that the biggest challenge to getting hired for a civilian position is employers' inability to understand how military skills can fulfill qualifications for civilian positions. Veterans also point to a lack of a college degree, a low number of jobs in their area and an inexperience with civilian job interviewing as other reasons they feel they aren't finding employment.

Even though veterans may feel disconnected from employers, nearly 20 per cent of employers said that they will be actively recruiting veterans over the next 12 months. When asked what qualities are most important that a veteran can bring to their organization, employers said:

- The ability to be part of a team (74 per cent);
- Disciplined approach to work (73 per cent);
- Leadership skills (66 per cent);
- Respect and integrity (64 per cent);
- Ability to perform under pressure (62 per cent).

"Employers value the diverse skill set that veterans can bring to their workforce and how these workers can have a positive impact on their bottom lines," said Rosemary Haefner, vice-president of human resources for CareerBuilder.com. "In fact, 20 per cent of employers said that they will be actively recruiting veterans over the next 12 months to fill specific roles in fields such as IT, sales, management and engineering."

Haefner recommends the following tips for veterans seeking a transition from military to civilian life:

MAKE YOUR SKILLS TRANSFERRABLE: When crafting your resumé, focus on framing your military skills in a civilian light to clearly communicate your strengths to employers. There are several online translators available to veterans that can help you match your military experience and training with corresponding civilian jobs.

QUANTIFY YOUR EXPERIENCE: Be specific when describing your experience on your resume and in your cover letter to better relate to hiring managers. For example, instead of stating that you worked in "defence," present a detailed explanation such as, "managed strategic planning and day-to-day operation of defence unit of 1,500 military personnel."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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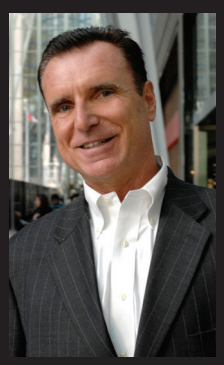

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Mormon Musical
South Park creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone are taking a comedy musical about the Mormon faith to Broadway. The pair have teamed up with Jeff Marx, the brain behind the successful stage comedy Avenue Q, to develop a script for Mormon Musical. IMDB.COM

Entertainment

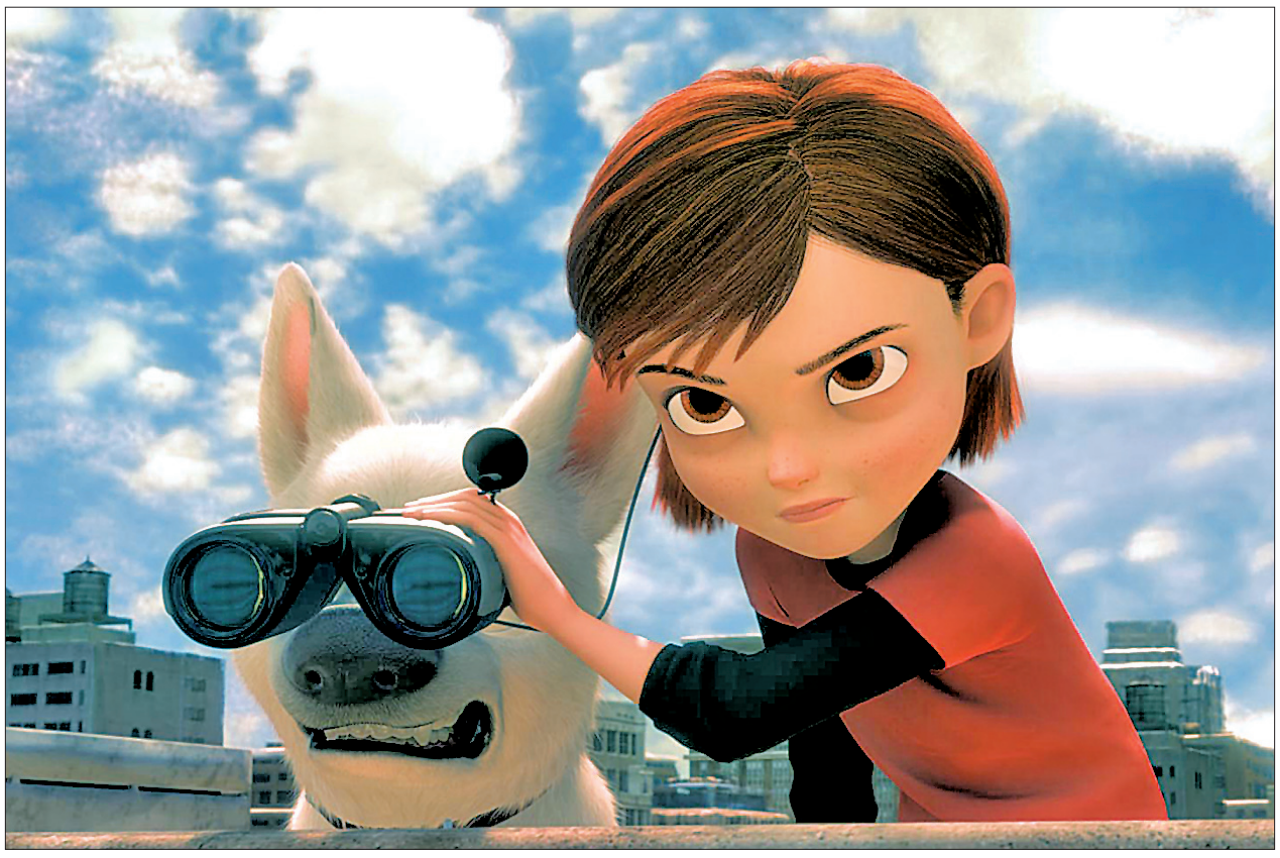
Connery tees off
Sean Connery is delighted he will help open Donald Trump's $1.5-billion US golf course resort in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, because it will boost the country's image around the world. IMDB.COM

EDITOR: TINA COSTANZA, TINA.COSTANZA@METRONEWS.CA

Cyrus gets animated

Teen star teams up with John Travolta to voice characters in Bolt

STEVE GOW
for Metro Canada



Miley Cyrus supplies the voice of Penny, a young actress who must cope with the loss of her pet pooch, in the animated film Bolt.

It's hard to believe that Miley Cyrus is only 15-years-old. In just her short decade-and-a-half, the superstar has already had the hit TV sitcom Hannah Montana, a number one album and become so popular with teens, she's seen her face emblazoned on everything from jewelry to bedding and more.

"I was looking for hand sanitizer and someone whipped out my face on (a bottle of) hand sanitizer," said the young actress during a recent interview in Los Angeles. "That was weird."

If Cyrus' age is hard to distinguish by her extensive body of work and stunning success, it becomes slightly more evident when you meet her. After all, when discussing her new animated movie Bolt, Cyrus displays the enthusiasm of an excited teenager.

"It's kind of weird, but it's fun," Cyrus said about her first foray into voiceover work. "You're making facial expressions as you say the lines so you're like, 'OK, are my facial expressions that I'm making right here going to match what really happens in the movie?'"

In the charming film, Cyrus supplies the voice of Penny, a young actress who must cope with the loss of her beloved pooch Bolt — voiced by John Travolta — after her pup/co-star accidentally gets shipped across America.

While Bolt journeys his way home to Hollywood, he picks up such travelling companions as Rhino, a high-strung rodent housed in a clear hamster ball.

"I wanted to (play him) so bad. I don't care that I'm a girl. I wanted to play the little boy hamster. He's so cute I want to squeeze him everytime I see him," says Cyrus. "I know there'll be a Rhino movie because all the kids are going to fall in love with him."

While moviegoers will have to wait until the film opens Friday to discover Rhino, Cyrus has already earned her own mass of worldwide admirers — and more impressively — the respect of her legendary co-star.

"She's an amazing young woman, very sophisticated," said Travolta about the teen sensation. Although the pair didn't voice together for the movie, they did record a duet for Bolt, a song co-written by Cyrus.

"Miley is kind of the Olivia Newton-John of today and getting to sing with her made me so popular with my kids. I dined out a lot on that one."

SOCAN honours Griff, Nickelback

MUSIC Rock band Nickelback, country artist Ray Griff, folk musician Ron Hynes and the late Oscar Peterson were among those honoured Monday night by the Society of Composers, Authors and Music Publishers of Canada (SOCAN) at its 19th annual awards gala.

The awards recognize and celebrate Canadian success stories, organizers said.

Toews wins Rogers prize for fiction

BOOKS Winnipeg author Miriam Toews has won the $25,000 Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize for her fifth novel, The Flying Troutmans — the story of a young woman trying to help her niece and nephew find their father on a road trip. The book, published by Knopf Canada, was chosen by a jury of authors that included last year's fiction winner, Lawrence Hill, as well as Annabel Lyon and Heather O'Neill.

Governor General award for Ricci

BOOKS Toronto author Nino Ricci has won a Governor General's Literary Award for his novel The Origin of Species. Ricci also received the prestigious fiction prize in 1990 for his debut novel, Lives of the Saints.

"Certainly one thing that the past decades have shown us is that there is a real hunger among Canadians to hear our own stories in our own words," Ricci said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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A Christmas Duel

The Hives have revealed they will release a Christmas single featuring Cyndi Lauper. A Christmas Duel will be released as a free download, available from Nov. 28. **ANANOVA.COM**

Portrait of a publisher in papers' golden age

RICK MCGINNIS
rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

When Ken Whyte began writing the book that would become The Uncrowned King, his biography of the young newspaper tycoon William Randolph Hearst, he had very little interest in the man himself.

Today, Hearst has become a mythic figure whose fame was formed mostly by the picture Orson Welles painted in Citizen Kane, his thinly-disguised movie portrait of a reclusive and megalomaniacal mogul, and Whyte was content to work from that myth.

"It wasn't even going to be a book about Hearst," insists Whyte, the current editor of Maclean's and founding editor of the National Post. "It was going to be a book about a newspaper war. Hearst was one character, (Joseph) Pulitzer was another, but the more I got into Hearst's earlier life I began to see this character that was nothing like what I was led to believe. And so Hearst started to take over the book."

"This book is a counterpart to Citizen Kane, it's another look at Hearst as a young man, and it shows him as a talented journalist and a guy with a strong sense of the common good ... One of the best newspapermen at a time when it really meant something."

Besides banishing old Hearst myths, the book also paints a vivid and fascinating picture of a world before TV or movies, where newspapers ruled and competition for readers was vicious. Whyte says that this sustained his interest in the project, and admits to a fondness for the period made more acute by his part in the Post's battle with the Globe & Mail — what will probably be the last national newspaper war this country will ever see.

"It's not just that there were 47 newspapers in New York at the time," Whyte says, "but the papers were growing and spinning out new features and adding sports sections and life sections and weekend supplements and colour comics and op-ed pages and developed the single recurring columnist, all of these innovations and talent was really valued and editors were paid like bank executives. That was a time to be a newspaperman, absolutely."

"It's changed a lot and we don't invest in talent and we don't innovate anymore. All the essential elements of a newspaper today were produced in the 19th century, with the exception of the advertising supplements — the home section, the travel section, the car section. Basically everything for readers has been there for a hundred years. We've ceased to innovate and we've ceased to grow and talent doesn't matter as much. We think that we've been in decline for five or 10 years — I think we've been in decline for a hundred years."

COLIN MCCONNELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Ken Whyte, author of The Uncrowned King.

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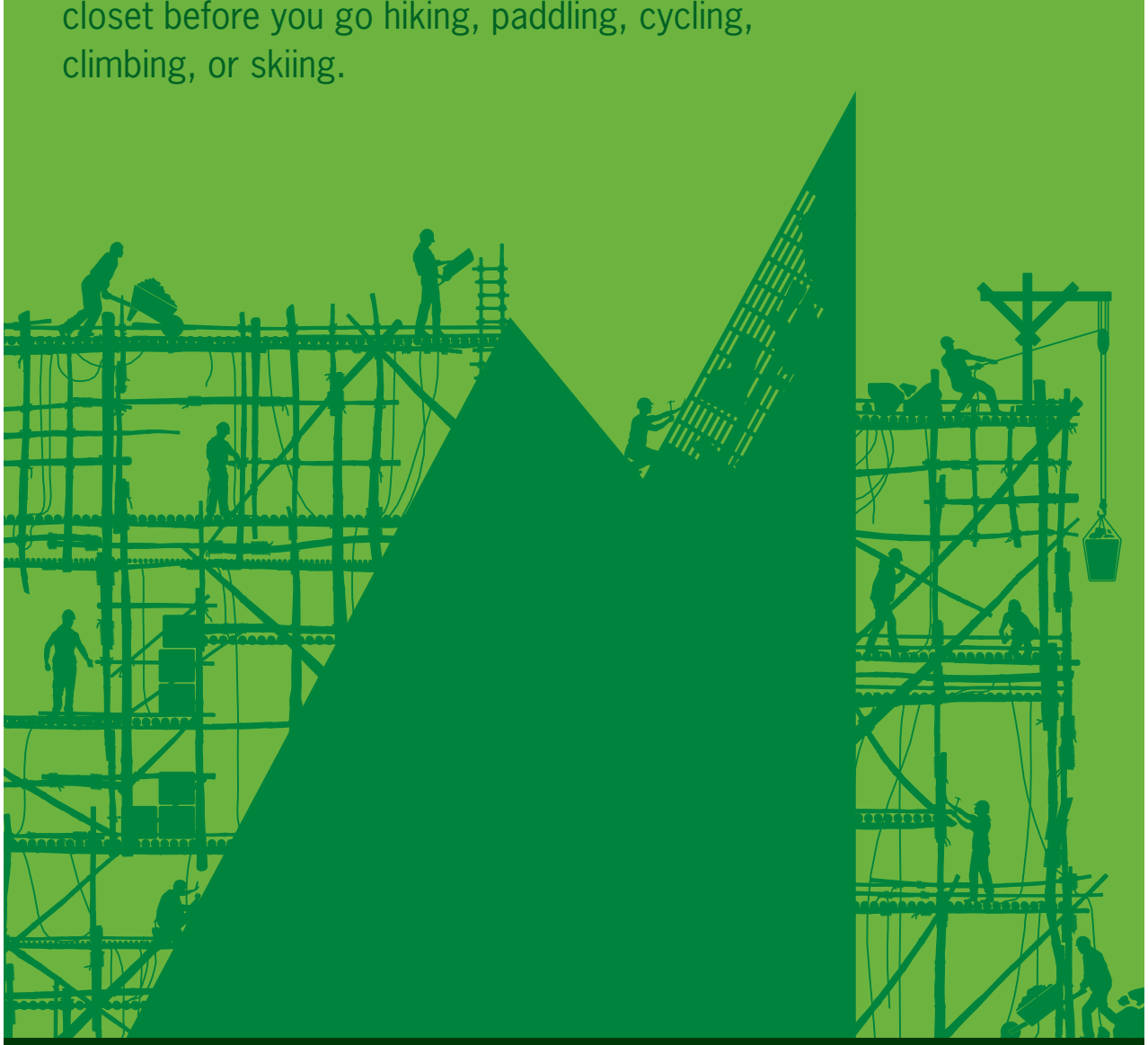

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From Hellboy to wooden boy
Hellboy director Guillermo Del Toro is in talks to take the children's story Pinocchio to the big screen. IMDB.COM

Ballet's dream language

After 35 years as the artistic director and chief choreographer of the Hamburg Ballet, John Neumeier has had time to reflect on what it means to be an artist, in particular in dance.

Some of those reflections are embodied in his 2002 ballet, The Seagull, recently performed for the first time by the National Ballet of Canada at the Four Seasons Centre. The 66-year-old choreographer cites four questions in his notes to the ballet, an adaptation of Anton Chekhov's play, written in 1895.

What does it mean to be in love? What does it mean to be an artist? What does it mean to be an artist who is in love? What does it mean to be someone who loves to be an artist? The questions are implicit in the dance that Neumeier fashioned after watching the play in January 1996 and being suddenly struck with its suitability for ballet.

"I saw the possibility to translate Chekhov's world of writers and actors into a visual world of choreographers and dancers," says the American-born choreographer. The Russian writer's work translates well into ballet because "it presents a realistic world, but it has a spiritual or metaphysical world mixed in. By using the language of dance itself you can say a lot about the characters."

The National Ballet's performances of The Seagull run until Sunday at the Four Seasons Centre for the Performing Arts.

In the first cast of The Seagull, Sonia Rodriguez is Nina, an aspiring dancer; Greta Hodgkinson is Arkadina, a prima ballerina and sister to Sorin, the estate owner (Richard Landry). Nina is in love with Kostya (Zdenek Konvalina), a revolutionary choreographer. Aleksandar Antonijevic portrays Trigorin, the established, successful choreographer, and friend of Arkadina's.

Neumeier's large repertoire includes a number of contemporary story ballets, including The Saga of King Arthur, Hamlet, Othello, The Odyssey and The Little Mermaid, a commission from the Royal Danish Ballet to mark the bicentenary of Hans Christian Andersen.

But, he says, "I don't think narrative ballet is about stories that can be retold in words. I think it is about dramas that cannot be expressed in words. The levels in ballet are like emotions we experience in dreams.

"We know we're frightened, we know we are in love, we know we are erotically aroused, but we don't have a complete story around it. I think this emotional intensity gives the structure to my work."

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Locklear charged with driving under the influence

Actress Heather Locklear has been charged with driving under the influence of prescription drugs following her September arrest in Santa Barbara, Calif. She is due to be arraigned in January, and faces up to six months in jail if convicted. IMDB.COM

Break the cycle of child poverty

EVENT GET LIT — an evening of literature and inspiration — happens tonight at 7 p.m. at The Gladstone Hotel (1214 Queen St. W.). Celebrity readers at the event include CBC host George Stroumboulopoulos and Mayor David Miller — among many more — in support of The Reading and Running Club, an after-school program that encourages children living in underprivileged neighbourhoods to break the cycle of generational poverty. Tickets are $100 each. Visit getlit.va.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jackson too sick to travel: Lawyer

Michael Jackson's lawyer says the pop star might be too sick to travel to London to testify in a suit claiming he owes an Arab sheikh $8.6 million.

Jackon is seeking to give his testimony by video link from the United States.

"It would be unwise for him to travel, given what's he's got now," lawyer Robert Englehart said, declining to elaborate "for the obvious reasons."

Sheikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa's lawyer, Bankim Thanki, said the medical evidence presented by Jackson's legal team was "very unsatisfactory" and Jackson's illness could be treated with a bandage "if the diagnosis is positive."

"It's not the first time a sick note has been presented by Mr. Jackson."
Bankim Thanki, lawyer

"It's not the first time a sick note has been presented by Mr. Jackson," Thanki said.

The judge, Nigel Sweeney, said he would decide the matter on Thursday to allow time for medical experts on both legal teams to talk.

Al Khalifa, the second son of the king of Bahrain, claims that Jackson reneged on a contract for an album, a candid autobiography and a stage play, after accepting millions from the sheikh.

The case is being tried in London by mutual agreement. Al Khalifa's representatives have said. It is due to wrap up by the end of the month.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ERIC NEITZEL/GETTY IMAGES

Sheikh Abdulla bin Hamad Al Khalifa claims that Michael Jackson reneged on a contract after accepting millions.

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MacGyver's the man
TV hero MacGyver has beaten Buffy The Vampire Slayer and 24's Jack Bauer to the top of a new TV action heroes poll by TV Guide. IMDB.COM

Recreating the '70s, one period song at a time

IntelleVision

rick.mcginnis@metronews.ca

MUSIQUE NON-STOP: You know that ABC's Life On Mars has confounded its worst expectations when Variety runs a feature about the show's soundtrack.

Music plays as big a role in the ABC Americanization as it does in the BBC original, and you should expect nothing less from a show that, after all, takes its title from a song that was apparently a major part of original creator Ashley Pharoah's inspiration for the British series.

Scott Rosenberg, executive producer of the ABC version, was eager to discover why Pharoah had set the show in 1973.

"I really thought he was going to give me this incredibly hyper-intellectual answer about how 1973 was the moment when the '60s died and the '70s began, with Watergate and Vietnam," Rosenberg told Variety, "and he said, 'Honestly, because that's when the David Bowie song came out.'"

Another recent U.S. show set in the '70s — CBS' Swingtown — also relied on a tune-heavy soundtrack, but the choices were painfully obvious Top 40 ditties that made the show feel like the Complete Idiot's Guide to the decade.

The British show made spectacular use of period songs, some of them more likely to resonate with British viewers (Slade's Gudbuy T'Jane, Status Quo's Good Thinking, any Roxy Music but Love Is The Drug) and a few pointedly obscure (Colosseum's I Can't Live Without You, copious amounts of Hawkwind and Atomic Rooster.)

"I really thought he was going to give me this incredibly hyper-intellectual answer about how 1973 was the moment when the '60s died and the '70s began, with Watergate and Vietnam."
Life on Mars executive producer Scott Rosenberg

Variety describes Rosenberg as a music snob "who'd rather turn viewers on to a slightly obscure track than fall back on a classic rock hit."

To that end, lesser glam bands like Sweet and Mott The Hoople are heard in the background, and when they're playing the Rolling Stones in a bar, it's Out Of Time, not Jumpin' Jack Flash or (shudder) Wild Horses.

ABC has even put up a streaming radio station on the show's website, featuring period hits, and while writing this it's featured the Beatles doing The Long And Winding Road and Almost Cut My Hair by Crosby, Stills & Nash, underlining what anyone who survived the decade already knows — that the '70s were, at least until 1976, little more than an extended hangover from the '60s.

(More accurately, you can simply say that the real '60s began at some point in mid-1965 and didn't really end until the Sex Pistols played their first gig at a London art college in the fall of 1975.)

All of which makes me eager to give the show the chance I was loathe to grant it during its troubled production history earlier this year — on DVD, of course, provided that ABC doesn't cheap out on music rights, pull a WKRP and replace all the music with studio musicians vamping on the riff from The Boys Are Back In Town.

Rick McGinnis writes about music, movies, books and television, but not opera.

Bachelor winner arrested in Texas

TELEVISION A former NFL cheerleader and winner of The Bachelor is out of jail after being arrested in a southwest border town bar for unruly behaviour.

Mary Delgado, who accepted a televised proposal from professional bass fisherman Byron Velvick on 2004's The Bachelor, was arrested in Del Rio after refusing to leave a local bar.

The 41-year-old was arrested on charges of disorderly conduct, public intoxication, and resisting arrest. She was released about an hour later.

It's unclear if the former Buccaneers cheerleader had a lawyer.

A telephone listing could not be found for Delgado's home state of Florida, where she was arrested last year on a charge that she struck a man she lived with.

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TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
primetime 11/19/08	265	353	2	TVO	Meerkat Manor	Meerkat Manor	The Agenda With Steve Paikin		New Tricks		The View From Here (N)		
	211	331	3	GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		House "House's Head"		The Guard (N)		News (N)
	215	343	4	OMN1	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere II	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6	CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Little Mosque	Sophie (N)	CBC News: the fifth estate (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7	CITY	Law & Order: SVU		Secret Life of American Teen		Stylista (N)		I Love Money		News (N)
	212	313	8	CTV	etalk	Hollywood	You Can Dance		Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	218	345	11	E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Johnny Depp: True Story		Corey Feldman: THS		News (N)
	137	763	13	TFO	Panorama		Les Citadins du rebut global		*Dolls* ★★★ (2002, Drame) Miho Kanno, Hidetoshi Nishijima.				Enfants
	-	-	14	-	Cold Case "Revenge"		News (N)		News (N)		2Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15	SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	*Regarding Henry* ★★ (1991, Drama) Harrison Ford.				To Serve and Protect		Grill Rm.
	-	387	16	CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Old Christine	Gary Unmarr	Criminal Minds (N)		CSI: NY (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	385	17	NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	Knight Rider (HDTV) (N)		Life "Badge Bunny" (N)		Law & Order (HDTV) (N)		News (N)
	-	386	18	ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Pushing Daisies (N)		Private Practice (N)		(10:01) Dirty Sexy Money		News
	219	346	20	ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Monk		Private Practice (N)		(10:01) Dirty Sexy Money		News (N)
	-	-	28	FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV PA) (N)		House "House's Head"		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61	PBS	News-Lehrer	Vicar of Dibley	Monarchy: The Royal Family at Work (HDTV) (DVS)				Revisiting Brideshead		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330	WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	America's Next Top Model (N)		Stylista (N)		CW11 News at Ten (N)		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331	SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV) (N)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332	TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	NBA Basketball Los Angeles Clippers at Oklahoma City Thunder. (HDTV)					Next Model
news	502	390	26	NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		When Sharks Attack		National
	500	500	33	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79	CNB	CNBC Reports				On the Money		Big Idea/Donnie Deutsch		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22	net	Junior Hockey CHL -- Teams TBA. (Live)						Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30	TSN	That's Hockey!	NHL Hockey Vancouver Canucks at New York Rangers. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre (HDTV) (Live)		
	411	457	58	OLN	Ed's Up	Videos	The Amazing Race 13		Ed's Up	Adventures	Word Travels	Globe Guides	Pilot Guides
	417	406	81	SC	Pinks	Pass Time	Am. Thunder	Am. Thunder	Pinks	Pinks Outtakes	Wrecked	Wrecked	Pinks (HDTV)
family	551	542	25	YTV	Malcolm-Mid.	Home Improve.	Malcolm-Mid.	Fresh Prince	Futurama	Prank Patrol	Mystery Hnt.	Adrenaline Proj	Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45	TEL	George-Jungle	Bugs Bunny & Tweety Show		Wayside	Johnny Test	Futurama	The Critic	Robot Chicken	Daughter-Devil
	556	540	51	FAM	Wizards-Place	That's-Raven	Zack & Cody	Natural-Sadie	Han. Montana	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
cable variety	602	567	27	W	Will & Grace	Friends	Grocery Bag	Maxed Out	Supersize vs. Superskinny		She's Got the Look		Style by Jury
	570	580	29	MM	To Be Announced						Degrassi: Next	Degrassi: Next	PunchMuch
	615	520	31	A&E	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		Dog the Bounty Hunter		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Parking Wars	Parking Wars	Parking Wars
	700	800	35	TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	L'Onore e il Rispetto				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
	571	581	36	MMM	mmmtop	MusicProfile	Back In	Back In	Revival	Where You At	Fabulous Life Of... (N)		Party of Five
	575	583	38	CMT	Dallas Cheerleaders		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Coyote Ugly
	616	521	39	SHO	Kink in Hair	Kink in Hair	Durham County		Billable Hours	G-Spot	Starter Wife		House
	620	523	40	BVO	Desperate Housewives		Berkeley	Bravo!Videos	Wingfield	Letters: The Art of Courtship		The Achievers	Law & Order
	601	562	41	SLC	End of Leash	ET Canada	Last 10	Bulging Brides	Work Out		Real Housewives of NYC		Last 10
	522	506	43	HIS	NCIS "The Meat Puzzle"		Cities of the Underworld		The Real Treasure Island		NCIS "The Meat Puzzle"		Crime Stories
	625	548	44	COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	House Party	RENO 911! (N)	Daily Show
	600	564	46	H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Mansions	The Stagers	Property Virgin	Unsellable	Million Dollar Listing		Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47	TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	*Shrek* ★★★ (2001, Comedy)			Steve Harvey	Family Guy	Family Guy	Seinfeld
	576	582	49	BET	106 & Park	*Lean on Me* ★★ (1989, Docudrama) Morgan Freeman, Robert Guillaume.					Comic View	Black Carpet	Judge Hatchett
	627	528	50	SPC	Lost "Dave"		Star Trek: Deep Space Nine		Battlestar Galactica		Ghost Hunters International (N)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52	MTV	Busted	After	MTV News	Cribs	Real World-Road Rules		Real World-Road Rules		MTV Live
	618	524	54	TROP	Beverly Hills, 90210		Reality	What Happen?	Family Guy	Seinfeld	Seinfeld	'70s Show	Family Guy
	603	561	56	FOOD	The Main	Chef at Home	Restaurant Makeover		Iron Chef America		Top Chef		Restaurant
	261	394	60	V	Murder, She Wrote		Summer Wine	Dinnerladies	Darling Buds of May		*In the Line of Duty: Ambush in Waco*		
	621	527	63	STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show		TMZ (N)	etalk	Paris Hilton's My New BFF		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65	TRE	Wonder Pets	Nght Grdn	Friend Rabbit	Franklin	Little Bear	Miss Spider	Comfy Couch	Rolie Polie Olie	Beren. Bears
	115	711	101	TVA	Occupation	Poule-oeufs or	Destinées (HDTV) (N) (SC)		Les Soeurs Elliot (N) (SC)		TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102	RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249	VIVA	Judging Amy		Commander In Chief		The West Wing		Mediums	Psychic Detect	Mediums
	300	601	301	M1	(7:15) *Premonition* ★★ (2007, Suspense), Nia Long				*National Treasure: Book of Secrets* ★★ (2007, Action)				*Urban Justice*
	305	612	306	PIX	*Jaws 4*	(7:20) *Crosswinds* (1994, Drama)			*Cube* ★★ (1997, Science Fiction)			(10:40) *The Faculty*	

critics'corner

Sophie
The title of this new episode is "The Lost Weekend," but let's hope it doesn't bear any resemblance to the classic film of that name. Sophie (Natalie Brown) takes her mom (Mimi Kuzyk) on a spiritual retreat, leaving little Robbie in the care of Estelle (Sara Botsford) for the first time. Do wacky baby-sitting hijinks ensue? Well, this is a sitcom. 8:30 PM on CBC

Life
Is it the handcuffs? When a drug dealer and an elementary-school teacher are found dead in a bad part of town, it looks like a typical drug deal gone bad. But the investigation takes a turn when Crews and Reese (Damian Lewis, Sarah Shahi) discover the dead teacher was a woman who exclusively dated cops — a "badge bunny." Could the killer be one of their own? Then Crews and Jennifer (Jennifer Siebel) address their complex relationship. 9 PM on NBC

Garner delights Affleck with gaming suite plans
Actress Jennifer Garner dealt her poker-playing husband Ben Affleck a winning hand when she surprised him with her plans to build a private gaming suite for him in their home. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Celebrity Buzz

Madonna warns against marriage

PEOPLE Madonna has reportedly told pop star Britney Spears never to get married again, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer, who recently announced she is divorcing Guy Ritchie after nearly eight years of marriage, has allegedly advised mother-of-two divorcee Spears not to walk down the aisle again.

"Britney asked Madonna if she will ever marry again after her split from Guy. Madonna not only said she wouldn't but told Britney to forget about marriage. She said it just doesn't work for girls like them," a source close to Madonna told gossip website AbsoluteNow.com.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sutherland recalls painful jail time

PEOPLE Months after Kiefer Sutherland completed his seven-week jail sentence for DUI, the 24 star still shivers at the thought of what he endured, People.com reports.

"There's no smoking," Sutherland, 41, tells Men's Vogue in its December/January issue, which hits newsstands Tuesday. "The lights never go out, 24/7. You can't cover anything. You can't even put your head under a blanket. All the cells have cameras in them."

Although Sutherland has resumed smoking, the knowledge that he could go 48 days without his Camels is a comforting thought.

"My drinking was not a daily thing, so it wasn't an issue. And, oddly enough, neither was the smoking," he tells the magazine, adding, "I was very glad to know that I could quit. And one day soon I will."

One thing that didn't work out, he says, was the roommate situation.

"I was told, you know, 'You'll have your own cell.' But I didn't for the first two or three weeks; I had a cell mate," he says. "He got out, but not for long. He came back in pretty quick."

24's new season begins Sunday.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Scarlett flattered by being Katy's muse

PEOPLE Some stars get fan mail. Scarlett Johansson got a platinum-certified single, People.com reports.

When told that her lips inspired Katy Perry to pen her hit I Kissed A Girl, Johansson, who recently married Ryan Reynolds, tells December's Allure, "That's flattering, but my lips are kind of taken."

In fact, until Perry's melody was pointed out to her, "I had no idea (about the song)," says Johansson, 24. "I should get a cut!"

Yet when the topic of how she met Reynolds, 32, comes up, Johansson cuts off the conversation.

"Nobody knows," she says. "It's private. It's our story."

And while she won't reveal the details of their past, Johansson does exhibit a carefree mindset toward the future.

"I always wanted to get married and have kids," she says. "I just never had any preconceived idea about what that would be like … My life seems to be happening naturally."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Kidman 'reeling' at leaving baby

FAMILY Nicole Kidman admitted she was "reeling" yesterday at the Sydney premiere of her new epic Australia, but not from the cameras or crowds, People.com reports.

What had her so stressed? The actress and her husband, Keith Urban, had to leave four-month-old daughter Sunday Rose back home in Nashville, Tenn. — half a world away.

"I had to leave her for 24 hours," Kidman said. "I haven't done that yet and so I'm still reeling."

Still, the Oscar-winner said missing the premiere was simply not an option.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Cohen crashes set of Medium

ANTICS Production on Patricia Arquette's hit TV drama Medium came to a halt recently when comic Sacha Baron Cohen invaded the set as his fashion reporter creation Bruno, imdb.com reports.

Filming was temporarily shut down as Baron Cohen, posing as an extra, was forcibly removed from the set after interrupting a tense courtroom scene.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jolie not ready to retire yet

CAREER Angelina Jolie has backtracked on her decision to "fade away" from acting, insisting she's not ready to retire yet, imdb.com reports.

The Oscar winner recently suggested she was finished with films, and wanted to quit so she could spend more time with her six children and partner Brad Pitt.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Washington still bitter?

CONTROVERSY Actor Isaiah Washington is still bitter about the way he was ousted from hit medical drama Grey's Anatomy because reports suggested he attended rehab sessions to conquer his alleged homophobia, imdb.com reports.

The star was fired from the show after an on-set altercation with Patrick Dempsey, in which he referred to gay castmate T.R. Knight as a f—.

But Washington insists the whole incident was blown out of proportion, and suggestions he needed counselling for his comments are all wrong.

"The rehab thing was incorrect," he says. "There's no such thing as rehabilitation. I was given an opportunity to go to executive counselling so I would get away from the media. The world still thinks I taunted T.R. Knight and called him the F-word, which I didn't."

Washington left the show at the beginning of last year.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Spears compares her life to prison

PEOPLE Britney Spears says her life is like being in prison, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer suffered a public breakdown earlier this year resulting in her father Jamie becoming co-conservator of her estate, but has recently wowed fans with her sleek new image after getting her personal life back on track.

However, Spears has revealed she is not completely happy.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Photos of Hilton may upset beau

RELATIONSHIPS Paris Hilton may be in hot water with her rocker boyfriend Benji Madden after photos of her and former beau Stavros Niarchos flirting in a club were published, imdb.com reports.

The socialite was spotted getting friendly with her shipping heir ex, whom she dated for more than a year, before they split in 2006.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

GETTY IMAGES PHOTOS

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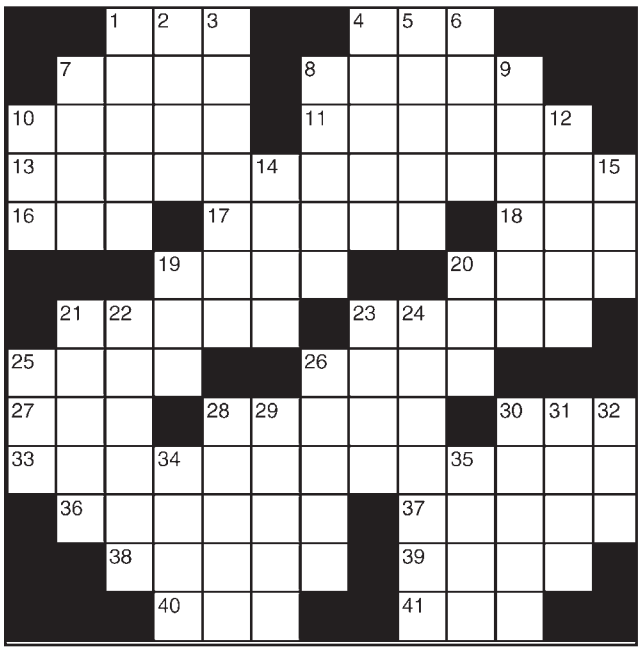

Crossword across

1 Sandwich letters
4 Massage
7 Eins, zwei, —
8 Gives a hoot
10 Existence
11 Charlie's staff
13 2008 Greg Kinnear film
16 Shark part
17 Rough woolen fabric
18 Conk out
19 Coop group
20 Ballet leap
21 Expositions
23 Attention-getting light
25 "My bad"
26 Connect
27 Dandy
28 Cheech's partner
30 Eventual aves
33 Here today, gone tomorrow type
36 Arm holder
37 Pollster's find
38 Hamstrings
39 Green land
40 "Mayday!"
41 "CSI" evidence

Crossword down

1 "Family Guy" dog
2 Photog's choice
3 More constricting
4 Gamut
5 Incited
6 Existed
7 Where heros are made?
8 Small restaurants
9 Pitcher's option
10 Closest pal, to a texter
12 Hotel accommodation
14 Possesses
15 Witness
19 That guy's
20 One of the Brady bunch
21 Puts one over on
22 Shock
23 Type selection
24 Illumi-nated
25 Vacationing
26 Singer Norah
28 Medical treatment, for short
29 Urticaria
30 Beethoven's "Fidelio," e.g.
31 Barn roof adornment
32 Moreover
34 Vast expanses
35 Ms. Brockovich

Sudoku

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		4	2	6		8		7
3		2	4					5
	7							
5		8			7			
		6				2		
			9			5		3
							8	
6					1	3		2
4		1		3	9	7		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

L	A	M	B			O	B	S			O	W	L	S
O	G	E	E			B	R	A			P	E	A	T
C	R	O	C			E	A	G	L	E	E	Y	E	
H	A	W	K	E	Y	E			E	R	N	S	T	
				E	L	S			B	S	A			
C	H	A	R	M			C	A	T	S	E	Y	E	
D	A	B				R	U	G				V	O	W
S	H	U	T	E	Y	E			Q	U	E	U	E	
				A	G	E			B	U	N			
A	M	O	N	G			D	E	A	D	E	Y	E	
B	I	R	D	S	E	Y	E			I	C	E	S	
E	L	S	E			A	N	T			E	R	A	S
D	O	O	M			R	E	S			S	U	R	E

1	8	5	6	4	2	7	9	3
2	9	7	5	3	8	6	1	4
4	6	3	9	1	7	8	5	2
7	3	6	8	5	4	9	2	1
5	1	2	7	9	6	4	3	8
9	4	8	1	2	3	5	6	7
8	7	1	2	6	5	3	4	9
6	2	4	3	7	9	1	8	5
3	5	9	4	8	1	2	7	6

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13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min .....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Chinese Beef Stir-Fry

INGREDIENTS:
7 oz (200 g) lean beef steak
1 tsp (10 mL) cornflour
1 tsp (5 mL) five-spice powder
1 carrot, peeled
1 small leek, trimmed
6 spring onions, sliced diagonally
1/2 red pepper, seeded and cut into strips
3.5 oz (100 g) dried rice noodles
1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) soy sauce
1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) rice wine
1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) vegetable oil
1 large garlic clove, finely chopped
1/3 inch (2 cm) piece fresh ginger, peeled and finely chopped
1 red chili pepper, seeded and finely chopped

METHOD:
1. Cut meat across the grain into 2-inch (5-cm) wide pieces, then cut each piece into very thin strips. Place in a small bowl with cornflour and five-spice powder. Mix until meat is coated.
2. Cut carrot and leek into 2-inch (5-cm) lengths, then cut each piece into thin matchsticks. Put in a bowl along with spring onions and red pepper.
3. Soak noodles in a bowl of lightly salted boiling water for 3 minutes. Drain and refresh in cold water, then drain again. Combine soy sauce, rice wine and 1 1/2 tbsp (20 mL) of water in a small jug or bowl.
4. Place a wok or large frying pan over high heat. When hot, add 1 tbsp (15 mL) oil and, when it has just begun smoking, toss in meat and stir-fry for 2–3 minutes until cooked through. Remove with a slotted spoon. Add remaining oil with garlic, ginger and chili pepper. Stir-fry for 30 seconds, then add vegetables and toss around for another 30 seconds.
5. Stir in soy sauce mixture and, as soon as liquid is bubbling, mix in drained noodles then meat. Serve immediately, with soy sauce to sprinkle over the top.

SERVES 2

rd.ca
For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
Be cautious but not fearful. Other people are on some weird kind of a tangent. Avoid making radical changes in your home.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
A depressing problem will soon be solved. Optimism is required to improve your circumstances. Avoid telling secrets to a stranger.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
A love life improvement is coming soon. Watch out for unpredictable drivers. Do not repeat an idiotic error.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A financial windfall is on the way. Rage blows over quickly when faced with silence. A man talks tough because he's compassionate.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
You'll get a blessing in disguise. Difficulties arise in a damaged friendship. Carelessness in money matters provokes severe regret.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't go looking for a fight. Use humour to deflect criticism. Mediocrity disappears when maturity kicks in.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
There's shocking news about a former partner. Tend to your chores in spite of a persistent daydream. Take notes when a friend introduces fresh ideas.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Somebody's sharp tongue leaves you feeling miserable. Nervous tension is increasing again. Any act of kindness will be rewarded.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
A joyful reunion is coming soon. A puzzling turn of events surprises you. A harmless person comes to your rescue.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
Plans are thwarted by a gutless person. Refuse to be miserable about minor failures. Remove a guilty secret from your conscience.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
Don't take any unnecessary risks. A pleasant surprise is due at any moment. Impediments will become stepping-stones.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Help a friend over a rough patch. Be scrupulous in clearing up obstacles. Make a phone call to reinforce an important relationship.

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